



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Michael B. Kaplowitz
Chairman

39528

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

Hon. Michael B. Kaplowitz, Chairman
Westchester County Board of Legislators

DATE: April 8, 2014

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. to provide legal services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, for a term commencing January 1, 2014 and continuing through December 31, 2014, for an amount not-to-exceed \$25,000.

The attached Resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("My Sisters' Place"), pursuant to which My Sisters' Place will provide, through its Center for Legal Services, legal services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, for a term commencing January 1, 2014 and continuing through December 31, 2014, for an amount not-to-exceed Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), payable quarterly, pursuant to an approved budget.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by enhancing the safety and independence of victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. If victims are empowered to learn how to develop and maintain their own safety they are not as likely to return to dependence on their abusers, thereby reducing public safety costs and medical costs. If they are helped to become independent and self-sufficient they are not as likely to be dependent on public assistance.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are for My Sisters' Place to provide legal services including, but not limited to, information and referrals, advice and counsel, and direct representation in family law, immigration and human trafficking matters.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of the public health, safety and general welfare, as providing legal services to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking will improve victim identification, screening, assessment and, ultimately, victim service provision.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women, which will be responsible for monitoring My Sisters' Place's performance by means of quarterly statistics and narratives. The effectiveness of these services will be determined by the outcomes of closed cases.

Authority to exempt these legal services from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof has been requested from your Honorable Board in accordance with a separate resolution of the same date hereof.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Director of the Office for Women and the Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("My Sisters' Place"), pursuant to which My Sisters' Place will provide, through its Center for Legal Services, legal services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, for a term commencing January 1, 2014 and continuing through December 31, 2014, for an amount not-to-exceed Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), payable quarterly, pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is subject to County appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is also subject to further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget (the "State Budget") proposed and adopted during the term of this Agreement. The County shall retain the right, upon the occurrence of any release by the Governor of a proposed State Budget and/or the adoption of a State Budget or any amendments thereto, and for a reasonable period of time after such release(s) or adoption(s), to conduct an analysis of the impacts of any such State Budget on County finances. After such analysis, the County shall retain the right to either terminate this Agreement or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to the Contractor, then the Contractor shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to execute any and all documents and take any actions necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be charged/credited:

FUND	DEPT	Major Program, Program & Phase, Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars	Funding Year
101	52	2508	5100	N/A	\$25,000	2014

Budget Funding Year(s) 2014 Start Date: 1/1/2014 End Date: 12/31/2014
 (must match resolution)

\$25,000
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source:

Tax Dollars \$25,000
 State Aid _____
 Federal Aid _____
 Other _____