

41807

DATE: August 12, 2014

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Edward Buroughs
Commissioner of Planning

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the Agreement between the County of Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. to provide affirmatively further fair housing Outreach and Education in Westchester County.

The attached resolution authorizes the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. (WRO), to provide affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH) Outreach and Education in Westchester County. The amount of the agreement shall not exceed \$60,000.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget, and the term of the agreement is October 1, 2014, to December 31, 2015.

The agreement will provide two areas of education and outreach on AFFH throughout Westchester County. The first component will be to offer a realtor certification course for realtors to specialize in working with households that are buying or renting for the first time – particularly low income households. The course will be an extensive education and outreach course that will be offered to real estate and housing professionals. This training will provide eight courses to approximately 120 realtors. The second component is to provide an AFFH outreach and education campaign will educate all persons of their fair housing rights and the avenues available to address allegations of housing discrimination. WRO will develop fair housing materials, flyers and posters for an AFFH outreach and education campaign that will provide both training and written materials that will specifically identify categories of protected classes, prohibited practices such as steering and blockbusting and the responsibility of realtors to report discriminatory practices by landlords, management companies, co-op boards and condo boards. WRO will also work with grass-roots organizations, (including those devoted to assisting people with disabilities), neighborhood organizations and faith-based groups to market the concept of diversity and inclusion, emphasizing the benefits of mixed communities and distribute written educational materials on diversity and fair housing. WRO will seek opportunities to speak at houses of worship, senior centers, social service agencies, PTAs, town meetings and other community forums on AFFH.

WRO has a 46-year track record of success in administering fair housing education and activities, and remains the only nonprofit housing agency doing fair housing work in Westchester County. WRO is a HUD-Certified Housing Counseling and Fair Housing Agency who has extensive experience in administering Fair Housing Programs in the County. They are able to reach a large target audience and are qualified to promote housing rights for all protected classes. No other local agency provides the same breadth of services as WRO. They have established a relationship with the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors providing fair housing training and answering the realtor's questions as issues arise.

The goal of this agreement is to help fulfill the County's housing education and outreach goals under the Housing Settlement Agreement. The program will be monitored by Department of Planning staff, who will review all payment requests to make sure all contractual requirements are met.

A separate resolution of even date requesting authority to enter into an agreement with Housing Action Council, Inc., for the above-mentioned services is being submitted for your approval.

I recommend approval of this agreement.

EB/cp
Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 09/04/2014 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

R E S O L U T I O N

UPON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING, BE IT HEREBY

RESOLVED: that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc to provide affirmatively further fair housing Outreach and Education in Westchester County in the not to exceed amount of \$60,000.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget, for a period beginning October 1, 2014, and ending December 31, 2015, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the County Executive or his authorized designee be and hereby is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary and appropriate to effectuate purposes hereof, and be it further

Accounts to be Charged/Credited

Fund	Agency	Capital Project or Org	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
263	11	0357	4250	T035	\$60,000.00

Budget Funding Year(s) FY 2014 Start Date October 1, 2014 End Date December 31, 2015
 (Must Match Resolution)

Funding Source	Tax Dollars	<u>\$60,000.00</u>
	State Aid	_____
	Federal Aid	_____
	Other	_____

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