

42106

DATE September 9, 2014

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Edward Buroughs
Commissioner of Planning

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for the provision of legal services to eligible low income individuals needing protection from eviction

The attached resolution authorizes the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) for the provision of legal services to eligible low income individuals needing protection from eviction for the term January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. The agreement will be in the not-to-exceed amount of \$353,513.00, pursuant to an approved budget.

LSHV has provided legal eviction prevention and housing resettlement services to low income residents with County funding since 1998, with the majority of its clients receiving public assistance benefits as well as Medicaid and Veteran's Administration benefits. It is anticipated that LSHV will provide at least 220 households with eviction prevention services to prevent homelessness and the need for additional public assistance. Many of these households are incurring rental obligations that exceed their housing allowances provided to them by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. This agency has the expertise and experience to provide the appropriate services, the capacity to provide these services and they have the local offices to provide the services at locations that are easily accessible to those who need these services.

The agreement will prevent homelessness in Westchester County by providing legal assistance on approximately 500 new legal matters involving eligible low income households in imminent danger of becoming homeless in the County. It is in the County's best interest to enter into this agreement as the legal services to be provided will enable eligible low income households to avoid eviction, the resulting homelessness and the need for homeless shelter residences, thus avoiding social and economic disruption to households and consequential increased County expenditures for homeless shelters. LSHV was able to meet or exceed all but two goals in 2013. Some cases required more extensive time than originally projected or the client's legal requirement changed during the course of providing legal services. We anticipate LSHV will succeed in accomplishing the goals established for 2014. Department of Planning staff shall monitor the agreement by reviewing LSHV's payment requests to ensure that all contractual requirements are met.

Authority to exempt this agreement from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a)xxi thereof, has been requested by your Honorable Board in accordance with a separate resolution of even date herewith.

I recommend approval of this agreement.

EB/cp
Attachment

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 Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for the provision of legal services to eligible low income households needing eviction prevention, for the term January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$353,513.00, to be paid 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 ("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 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 impact of any such budget(s) 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 the Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; 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 the purposes hereof.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	19	0100	4420	N/A	\$353,513.00

Budget Funding Year(s): 2014
(must match resolution)

Start Date: January 1, 2014

End Date: December 31, 2014

Funding Source

Tax Dollars \$353,513.00

State Aid _____

\$353,513.00
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid _____

Other _____