

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

Philippe Gille
First Deputy Commissioner

43356

Date: November 20, 2014

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire, Commissioner
Department of Social Services

Subject: **Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Volunteer's of America-Greater New York, Inc. to operate a Special Category Client Monitoring Program to monitor and track the movements of all Level III and Level II sexual offenders who have victimized a child less than 16 years of age and residing at the Westchester County Department of Social Services' Grasslands shelter facility for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$1,121,625 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation**

Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), to enter into an agreement with Volunteer's of America-Greater New York, Inc., (VOA) pursuant to which VOA will operate a Special Category Client Monitoring Program to monitor and track the movements of all Level III and Level II sexual offenders who have victimized a child less than 16 years of age and residing at the Westchester County Department of Social Services' Grasslands shelter facility for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$1,121,625 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The **public purpose** of the program is to assist the County of Westchester in ensuring the safety and well being of children by monitoring and tracking the movements of these offenders through a program designed under the current agreement.

The **goals and objectives** of the Special Category Client Monitoring Program are to monitor and track the movements of all Level III and Level II sexual offenders who have victimized a child less than 16 years of age and residing in Westchester County Department of Social Services' shelter facility. This program provides counseling, case management, education, supportive therapy and security to the Level III and Level II sexual offenders whose movements are tracked and monitored. Program attendance is a critical component of the program. Clients attend day treatment programs and group

therapy sessions conducted by experts familiar with sex offenders. Clients also receive psychotherapeutic treatment.

The goals and objectives of this program are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility, public health and safety as the program provides supportive services including counseling, therapy, education, and assistance to find employment and permanent housing, thereby assisting program participants in becoming economically independent and improving their behavior and quality of life. The program is aimed at creating a safe environment for children in the County. Further, when an incident occurs with a “special category client”, Senior Management reviews the incident and determines what procedures should be implemented to make the program effective in achieving the program goals.

The program is designed to supervise the clients in the program to ensure 100% compliance with the program rules and regulations, and to place a client back into the community as a part of their mutually agreed upon treatment plan. **The goals and objectives as stated in this resolution will be tracked and monitored** through the electronic submission of quarterly reports approved by the Budget Office as well as through direct contact with the Department in order to quickly address problems and assure adherence to the scope of services as outlined in the contract. The Department uses the Performance Measurement Indicators to evaluate the performance of the vendor and the effectiveness of the program.

The Department is able to report that VOA-Special Category Client Monitoring Program monitored 50 clients during the period October 1, 2013 through September 1, 2014. During the same period, 100% of clients were diverted from repeat offense and 98% had no new arrests. Twenty-two (22) clients (43% of total served) obtained permanent housing during the same period. This number is especially impressive due to the difficulty of this population securing permanent housing. Legislation requires that sex offenders are not housed near schools or playgrounds. The other difficulty is the negative reactions associated with this crime which makes it difficult to find an individual willing to rent to a sex offender.

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3 (a) (xiv) thereof. The proposed contract is not subject to Federal Common Grant Rules as there is no federal funding supporting this program.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with Volunteers of America – Greater New York, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

A resolution requesting the same is attached for your Honorable Board’s approval.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of Social Services, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through the Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Volunteer's of America-Greater New York, Inc. to operate a Special Category Client Monitoring Program to monitor and track the movements of all Level III and Level II sexual offenders who have victimized a child less than 16 years of age and residing at the Westchester County Department of Social Services' Grasslands shelter facility for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$1,121,625 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the contract is subject to County Appropriation; 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 is hereby authorized to take such action and execute such documents as may be necessary and proper to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited

| | Fund | Dept | Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit | Object/ Sub-Object | Trust Account | Dollars |
|------|------|------|--|--------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 2014 | 101 | 22 | 8900 | 5860 | ----- | \$280,406 |
| 2015 | 101 | 22 | 8900 | 5860 | ----- | \$841,219 |
| | | | | | | |

Budget Funding Year(s): 2014-2015
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 10/01/14 End Date: 09/30/15

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 71%

State Aid: 29%

\$1,121,625

Federal Aid:

(must match resolution)

Other: