

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

44068

DATE: December 18, 2014

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner of Social Services

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("MSP") for the purpose of providing advocacy and support services to children and victims of domestic violence for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$285,885 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

Authority from your Honorable Board is respectfully requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), to enter into an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("MSP") , pursuant to which MSP will provide advocacy and support services to children and victims of domestic violence for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for an amount not-to-exceed \$285,885 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

This agreement will serve a **public purpose** of promoting the safety of children and families by providing advocacy and intervention services, thereby enabling children and victims of domestic violence to access vital support services such as legal advice and housing. Services provided to children and victims of domestic violence include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Counseling
- Safety Planning
- Advocacy
- Securing Orders of Protection
- Securing Safe Housing/Shelter Placements
- Post-Shelter Placement Services
- Court Accompaniment
- Information and Referral
- Networking

The **goals and objectives** of this agreement will be to provide to victims of domestic violence and their children services such as crisis intervention, emotional support and life skills necessary to promote long-term financial self-sufficiency. Domestic violence liaisons/counselors will develop safety plans that will help avert the need for foster care placements and their associated costs. The services will provide for the health, safety and protection of children and victims of domestic violence. The ability to provide these services will decrease the risk of the development of severe emotional disorders or negative behaviors which may put others at risk of physical harm. In addition, under the proposed agreement, four domestic violence liaisons/counselors will be located in the County District Offices and a floater liaison/counselor will be available for CPS/domestic violence case coverage as needed anywhere in the County of Westchester.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health** as the services provided by MSP assist victims of domestic violence and their children with crisis intervention and emotional support. Children in the families that experience domestic violence are at risk of developing severe emotional disorders or adopting behaviors which may put others at risk of physical harm. Domestic violence services provided by MSP help to decrease the risks associated with exposure to domestic violence. Early intervention can avert the risks posed to children and victims of domestic violence.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety** as they are aimed at the safety and well being of the children and families of Westchester County. The program under this agreement will provide supportive services that allow families that experience domestic violence to seek lives free of violence and achieve the legal authority to protect their children and themselves from recurrent violence. MSP also provides services that assist victims of domestic violence in establishing stable and secure households independent of their abusers. Additionally, MSP seeks to make the families safe whenever possible by using legal interventions, family and community resources.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department will be able to diminish the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County.

The **goals and objectives of the agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Department** to evaluate success using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. They include, but are not limited to, the review of periodic reports submitted by the agency and onsite visits.

Based on the **Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report** that MSP, from January 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014, has served 475 families and 857 children. In addition, My Sisters' Place, Inc. has secured orders of protection for 100% of families who required their assistance and 99.6% of families received safe housing with assistance.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a) xiv as the agreement is for the purposes of providing aid, care and support to persons in need of public assistance.

This agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Common Grant Rule as this falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby respectfully requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. for the provision of providing the aforesaid services.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 02/12/2015 - JOMAR VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County") is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("MSP") pursuant to which MSP will provide advocacy and support services to children and victims of domestic violence referred to MSP by the Child Protective Services Division of the Department of Social Services for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for an amount not-to-exceed \$285,885 to be paid monthly 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 is empowered to take such actions and execute such documents as may be 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
2015	101	22	8900	5960		\$285,885

Budget Funding Year(s): 2015 Start Date: 01/01/15 End Date: 12/31/15
(Must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: 15%
State Aid: 24%
\$285,885 Federal Aid: 61%
(Must match resolution) Other: _____