

46050

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Honorable Robert P. Astorino
Westchester County Executive

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

Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

DATE: April 13, 2015

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into an agreement with Pace University to conduct legal consultation sessions to educate immigrants, for a term commencing May 1, 2014 and continuing through June 30, 2015, for an amount not-to-exceed \$15,000

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 with Pace University ("Pace") pursuant to which Pace, through its Community Law Practice (the "PCLP"), will conduct legal consultation sessions to educate immigrant clients of community-based organizations in Mamaroneck and New Rochelle, for a term commencing May 1, 2014 and continuing through June 30, 2015, for an amount not-to-exceed \$15,000, payable monthly, pursuant to an approved budget.

The PCLP was established in 2012 as a first-of-its-kind legal residency and incubator program where recent Pace Law School graduates serve as Fellows who intensively learn legal practice under the supervision of experienced attorneys, provide high quality legal services, and gain the tools to create solo and small practices. Its mission is to meet the urgent need for quality, affordable legal services in Westchester County and throughout the Hudson Valley. The PCLP has also provided extensive community education through events held at Pace and at collaborating community-based organizations.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by making available to immigrants legal education that they need and might otherwise be unable to obtain. Furthermore, Immigrants

have language and cultural barriers when using the legal system and may be fearful of immigration issues.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are for Pace to conduct intake interviews, provide legal information to clients, explain legal rights and remedies, and make appropriate referrals.

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 education to immigrants may keep them from having to remain dependent on social service systems and help them mainstream into the American culture.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women.

Authority to exempt the proposed Agreement 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 County Executive, the Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators and the Director of the Office for Women 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 with Pace University ("Pace") pursuant to which Pace, through its Community Law Practice, will conduct legal consultation sessions to educate immigrant clients of community-based organizations in Mamaroneck and New Rochelle, for a term commencing May 1, 2014 and continuing through June 30, 2015, for an amount not-to-exceed \$15,000, payable 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 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	Sub Unit	Trust Account	Dollars	Funding Year(s)
101	52	2508	5100	0011	N/A	\$15,000	2014-2015

Budget Funding Year(s) 2014-2015 **Start Date:** 5/1/2014 **End Date:** 6/30/2015

(must match resolution)

\$15,000
(must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars \$15,000
State Aid _____
Federal Aid _____
Other _____