

55546

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

DATE: February 28, 2017

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into an agreement with Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc. to provide culturally competent bilingual services for victims of sexual assault residing in Westchester County, for a term commencing January 1, 2017 and continuing through December 31, 2017, for an amount not-to-exceed \$100,000

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 (the "Agreement") with Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc. ("WHC"), pursuant to which WHC, through its Ya No Mas program, will provide culturally competent bilingual services for victims of sexual assault residing in Westchester County, for a term commencing January 1, 2017 and continuing through December 31, 2017, for an amount not-to-exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), payable quarterly pursuant to an approved budget.

Such services shall include, but not be limited to: a bilingual/multicultural 24/7 hotline; short-term counseling provided by crisis counselor advocates; accompaniment to appropriate resources including police stations, hospitals and other providers; comprehensive outreach; education; follow-up; and other related services, as needed.

The proposed Agreement is the result of a Request for Proposals ("RFP") which was sent out to 47 organizations throughout Westchester and the surrounding area and was made available on the County's Web site where it could be accessed by additional organizations including minority- and women-owned businesses. As a result, two proposals were received. Subsequent to review and evaluation, WHC was selected as the proposer best able to provide the aforementioned services.

WHC has been providing services in Westchester for the past 40+ years and has extensive experience working with immigrants. In 1986, it was designated as a Qualified Designated Entity by the U.S. Department of Justice under the Reagan Administration's Amnesty Program when it processed thousands of legalization applications for clients.

Through its Ya No Mas program, WHC increases access to services for information for Latina victims to ensure self-determination and autonomy and creates innovative programming that addresses sexual assault as experienced by Latina immigrants in Westchester County.

Due to the great need for the continuation of these services, as WHC has successfully provided similar services under previous contracts with the County, and for the reasons set forth above, it is recommended that this agreement move forward instead of repeating the RFP process.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by providing culturally specific sexual assault and domestic violence case management and ancillary legal services that address the victimization and complex ramifications of sexual assault in the Latina immigrant community.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are for WHC to provide case management services to 150 victims, family law legal services to 90 victims, and immigration legal services to 60 victims.

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

Attached for your consideration is a proposed resolution.

