

57848

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Honorable Robert P. Astorino
Westchester County Executive

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

Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

DATE: June 30, 2017

SUBJECT: Authority to exempt from the procedural requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy an agreement with Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc. to provide free legal services for immigrants, for a term commencing January 1, 2017 and continuing through December 31, 2017, for an amount not-to-exceed \$50,000

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 exempt from the procedural requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy an agreement (the "Agreement") with Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc. ("WHC") pursuant to which WHC will provide free legal services for immigrants, for a term commencing January 1, 2017 and continuing through December 31, 2017, for an amount not-to-exceed \$50,000, payable quarterly pursuant to an approved budget.

Specifically, WHC shall assist immigrants in processing U Visa and VAWA applications to submit to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS").

Lack of legal status is one of the root causes of instability and vulnerability in the lives of immigrants and often a means of control by offenders. Through legalization victims gain further access to systems of protection and entitlements provided by the law. Status allows for greater integration into the community, increased work opportunities as well as reunification with immediate relatives and children left behind.

WHC has been providing services in Westchester for the past 40+ years and has extensive experience working with immigrants. During the initial registration process, WHC assisted

clients in applying for legal permanent residency, and applying for naturalization. WHC has since helped clients obtain lawful status, legal permanent resident status, citizenship and/or work authorizations. As a result, many of WHC's clients have been able to become lawfully employed.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by increasing the stability and self-sufficiency of Latino immigrant men and women in Westchester.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are for WHC to assist 39 immigrants in processing U Visa and VAWA applications to submit to USCIS.

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

Under the Westchester County Procurement Policy Section 3(a)(xxi), your Honorable Board may determine "by resolution passed prior to commencing procurement that compliance with the Procurement Policy would not be in the best interests of the County." Due to the fact that WHC has the necessary experience and expertise to provide these services in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner, and for the reasons set forth above, it is requested that your Honorable Board make the determination that it is in the best interests of the County to exempt from the application of the procedural requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy the proposed Agreement with WHC.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Westchester County Executive, the Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, and the Director of the Office for Women, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, it is hereby determined that application of the procedural requirements contained therein, including the necessity of soliciting written price quotations, is neither cost effective nor expedient, and accordingly, not in the best interests of the County in connection with the procurement of an agreement with Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc. pursuant to which Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc. will provide free legal services for immigrants.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 08/03/2017
LISA M. J. SECRETARY