

67785

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Honorable George Latimer
Westchester County Executive

Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

DATE: February 11, 2019

SUBJECT: Authority to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof, an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc., pursuant to which it will provide case management services, child care services, counseling services for children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence, domestic violence education services, and legal services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Authority is hereby requested from your Honorable Board to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures an agreement (the "Agreement") between the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") and My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("My Sisters' Place"), for a term commencing on January 1, 2019 and continuing through December 31, 2019, pursuant to which My Sisters' Place will provide the following services:

- case management services for counseling programs serving victims of domestic violence, community training for service providers and healthcare workers, and outreach programs (the "Case Management Services");
- on-site temporary child care through My Sisters' Place's Tot Drop Program for children whose mothers/caretakers are accessing non-residential domestic violence services (the "Child Care Services");
- counseling services for children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence (the "Children's Counseling Services");
- teen dating and domestic violence prevention education through My Sisters' Place's Domestic Violence Education and Prevention Program as part of its Next Generation Educational Programming (the "Domestic Violence Education Services"); and
- legal services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking through My Sisters' Place's Center for Legal Services (the "Legal Services").

The Case Management Services, Child Care Services, Children's Counseling Services, Legal Services, and Domestic Violence Education Services are proposed to be provided via the Agreement, rather than four separate agreements, in order to make the County contracting process more efficient for both the County and My Sisters' Place.

As stated in separate resolution submitted to your Honorable Board, the Case Management Services are exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a)(viii) thereof, which exempts contracts with agencies engaging healthcare workers; the Child Care Services and Children's Counseling Services are exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xviii) thereof, which exempts contracts for the advancement of the moral, physical, mental and social well-being of the youth of Westchester County; and the Domestic Violence Education Services are exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a)(ix) thereof, which exempts contracts with teachers, lecturers, and other educational professionals or experts. However, the Legal Services are not exempt from competitive procurement under the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures.

Therefore, the County is requesting exemption of the procurement of the Legal Services from those procurement procedures, as stated above, in order to ensure that the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures are satisfied with respect to said services.

The County believes that the requested exemption is justified because My Sisters' Place has successfully provided related domestic violence legal services under contracts administered through the Office for Women since 1999, making it especially qualified to provide these services by reason of its expertise, leadership and longevity in the field, and because of its intimate connection with residential domestic violence services.

Based on the foregoing, it is proposed that the best interests of the County would be served by exempting the procurement of the Legal Services from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof. Accordingly, a resolution to exempt this procurement is hereby submitted for your consideration.

We respectfully recommend the adoption of the attached resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Westchester County Executive 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 and Procedures, it is hereby determined that application of the procedural requirements contained therein, including the necessity of soliciting proposals, is neither cost effective nor expedient, and accordingly, not in the best interests of the County in connection with the procurement of legal services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking for a term commencing on January 1, 2019 and continuing through December 31, 2019, which are to be provided under an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("My Sisters' Place"), for the same term, pursuant to which My Sisters' Place will provide said legal services as well as case management services, child care services, counseling services for children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence, and domestic violence education services.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACTS - 3/21/2019 - SAMIRIAJ, SECRETARY