



**Robert P. Astorino**  
County Executive

**Department of Social Services**

**Kevin P. Mahon**  
Commissioner

**DATE:** January 8, 2010

**TO:** Board of Acquisition and Contract

**FROM:** Kevin P. Mahon, Commissioner  
Department of Social Services

**RE:** Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Pathways to Housing, Inc. to operate up to seventy-one (71) units of scattered site emergency housing for homeless singles in Westchester County for the period of February 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,454,998 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to annual appropriations.

The County of Westchester requests authorization to enter into an agreement with Pathways to Housing, Inc. to operate up to seventy-one (71) units of scattered site emergency housing for homeless singles in Westchester County who can be categorized as part of the “hard to serve” population during the period of February 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,454,998 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to annual appropriations. There has been no increase in the amount requested for the proposed agreement.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement serve a **public purpose** by providing emergency housing and supportive services to homeless singles in the County and thereby, assisting the County in improving the quality of life of this population. “The mission of Pathways to Housing is to end homelessness for people who suffer from psychiatric disabilities by providing housing first and giving support and treatment for their recovery and integration into the community.” Assisted individuals are provided with supportive services including casework services, crisis management, counseling, life skills and budget management training as well as support and monitoring to connect with community based programs that would provide prescribed treatment services.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are in compliance with the NYS laws and regulations requiring the provision of emergency housing for the needy. The proposed agreement will provide emergency housing and supportive services for up to seventy-one (71) homeless individuals most of whom are individuals with mental disabilities and possible substance abuse issues. This program is designed to address the root cause of the individual’s inability to become stable in a suitable housing environment and pursue self-sufficiency and independence.

The goals and objectives of this program are in the **best interest of the County in terms of public health and public safety**. The population served routinely suffers from various chronic impediments such as mental illness, substance and/or alcohol abuse, and many are burdened with multiple barriers to permanent housing which have resulted in their current homeless status.

- Through this contract, customers who are eligible, receive housing services, direct supportive services and linkages to programs to address their needs.
- Housing the targeted population will reduce their risk of becoming victims of crime and general health-related issues that result from not having appropriate shelter.
- These services are aimed at improving the quality of life of the homeless population in the County.

Additionally, this contract is in the **best interest** of the County in terms of **fiscal responsibility** in that there is an economic cost to homelessness. According to a study from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, providing homeless people shelter is the most inexpensive way to meet their basic needs, particularly for those with chronic illness who use a variety of public systems in an inefficient and costly way. A 2008 Cost Analysis of Permanent Supportive Housing study, notes the following fiscal benefits of supportive housing programs such as Pathways:

- Housing people who are homeless cuts the average costs of the services they consume in half
- Housing people who are homeless shifts away from expensive emergency and psychiatric inpatient care to less expensive outpatient community based mental health services. Study participants who moved to their own apartments achieved the following results:
  - mental health costs decreased by 54%,
  - psychiatric hospitalizations decreased by 58%,
  - general inpatient hospitalizations decreased by 20%
- Long term instability can lead to crises that require frequent use of police, ambulance, and 911 emergency services. Permanent Supportive housing can decrease the cost of publicly funded emergency services. In the 2008 Cost Analysis of Permanent Supportive Housing study, the study participants
  - reduced emergency room cost by 49%,
  - health care cost by 46%,
  - ambulance transportation costs by 53%,
  - police contact costs by 51%,
  - and incarceration by 87%

The **goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored** by the program office using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The contractor is required to submit to the Department, quarterly statistical reports on all activities related to the program.

Failure to provide this service would result in the County being out of compliance with NYS laws and regulations requiring the provision of emergency housing for the needy.

The Department is able to report, based on **performance measurement indicators**, that the program has been successful in meeting the goals and objectives in 2009. Pathways to Housing program effectively housed 150 persons in permanent housing during the previous contract period. Approximately 57% of these individuals obtained employment as a result of their engagement in services and the stable living situation created by this program. This employment reduced the strain to public assistance, added to the economic well-being of the individual as well as the County and improved the personal esteem of customers.

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a) (xiv).

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with Pathways to Housing, Inc. for the above stated purpose.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 2-4-2010 - JOMARLY VIEIRA SECRETARY

## RESOLUTION

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Pathways to Housing, Inc. to operate up to seventy-one (71) units of scattered site emergency housing for homeless singles in Westchester County for the period from February 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,454,998 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this contract is subject to County Appropriation; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Agreement is also subject to further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget ("State Budget") proposed and adopted during the term of his 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 budget(s) 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 the agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is empowered to execute all documents, necessary and appropriate to implement this Resolution.

Account to be  
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010 101	22	8900	5860	-----	\$1,333,748
2011 101	22	8900	5860	-----	\$ 121,250

Budget Funding Year(s): 2010-11  
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 2/1/2010

End Date: 1/31/2011

Funding Source

\$1,454,998  
(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: 50%  
State Aid: 50%  
Federal Aid: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_