

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Office for Women

Camille Failla Murphy
Director

6923

April 23, 2010

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Camille Failla Murphy
Director, Office for Women

Re: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. for a term of one year commencing January 1, 2010 and terminating December 31, 2010 in an amount not-to-exceed One Hundred Two Thousand Three Hundred Ten Dollars (\$102,310) to be paid quarterly for services rendered pursuant to the workplan and budget attached as Schedules A and B to provide a school-based education program concerning domestic violence in accordance with the Department of Social Services' Consolidated Services Plan for Non-Residential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence.

Section 459-c of the New York Social Services Law directs social services districts, such as the County of Westchester (the "County"), to offer and provide non-residential services to victims of domestic violence, whether eligible or ineligible for public assistance. Non-residential services programs must have the ability to provide the following services:

- 1.) Information and Referral services
- 2.) Advocacy
- 3.) Counseling
- 4.) Community education and outreach activities
- 5.) Hotline services

To meet these requirements, the attached resolution seeks to authorize the County to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("My Sisters' Place") for a term of one year commencing January 1, 2010 and terminating December 31, 2010 in an amount not-to-exceed One Hundred Two Thousand Three Hundred Ten Dollars (\$102,310), of which

- o The County's share will be \$67,498: \$44,290 through the budget of the Office for Women; and \$23,208 which is the County's share of the Federal/State/County domestic violence money administered by the Office for Women under an Interdepartmental Cooperative Plan with the Department of Social Services;

- o New York State's share will be \$22,628, which is the State share of the Federal/State/County domestic violence money administered by the Office for Women under an Interdepartmental Cooperative Plan with the Department of Social Services; and
- o The Federal government's share will be \$12,184, which is the Federal share of the Federal/State/County domestic violence money administered by the Office for Women under an Interdepartmental Cooperative Plan with the Department of Social Services.

The proposed Agreement will promote the public health, safety and general welfare by educating middle and high school students in an effort to end teen dating violence. My Sisters' Place will work with schools and various community organizations throughout Westchester to provide classroom presentations, discussion groups, individual counseling, and an extracurricular program. By educating teens, they are given the tools to recognize the signs of abuse and break the cycle of violence, possibly preventing their involvement in an abusive relationship. The ultimate goal is to break the cycle of violence and prevent their involvement in an abusive relationship now or in their future, thereby reducing pain and suffering, public safety costs and medical costs. In 2009, 551 presentations were done in 46 schools reaching a total of 6,789 students. For the proposed contract term, My Sisters' Place expects to work with 45 schools, making approximately 450 presentations and reaching nearly 4,600 students.

My Sisters' Place developed this program based on its experience that educating teens themselves is the most effective way to stop teen dating abuse. There are several aspects which make this program valuable and unique. My Sisters' Place is able to reach thousands of middle and high school students on multiple levels because of the program's various components. The classroom presentations provide students with information to expand their knowledge of the issue. The discussion groups promote increased involvement and interaction while allowing teens to speak openly with each other. The individual counseling sessions, which are initiated by the students, are important because students are able to discuss private matters without fear of what others would think. My Sisters' Place even went one step further and created a program (S.A.F.E.R.) where teens have the opportunity to get involved and raise awareness of domestic violence through various community projects, walks, and other events.

It is expected that some of the schools My Sisters' Place will visit during the proposed contract term will be the same as in 2009. Typically, My Sisters' Place reaches out to all schools and works with those that respond. They continue working with the schools with which they establish a relationship.

The effectiveness of this school-based education program will be determined by pre- and post-tests provided to the students. Outcome results will be measured by their understanding of teen dating violence dynamics; their knowledge of the warning signs of teen relationship violence; and their understanding of the impact of gender stereotyping. For example, in 2009:

- 79% of students showed an increased understanding of teen dating violence dynamics
- 85% of students showed demonstrated knowledge of the warning signs of teen relationship violence
- 77% of students showed an increased understanding of the impact of gender stereotyping

In addition, over 3,000 students completed the pre- and post-tests and showed a 5% average increase in their scores.

This Agreement is necessary to maintain the ability of My Sisters' Place to provide domestic violence education and prevention services for middle and high school students through classroom presentations and individual and group counseling and support services. My Sisters' Place has provided these services to the Westchester community since 1981 under various County contracts, and has successfully met the terms of these contracts.

If this resolution is not approved, students may not gain the knowledge needed to identify signs of abuse, or where to go for help in an unsafe situation. The consequences of this may include their involvement in an abusive relationship, potentially endangering their lives.

Payments will be made to My Sisters' Place on a quarterly basis for services rendered, in accordance with the workplan and budget attached as Schedules A and B. The Westchester County Office for Women will be responsible for monitoring My Sisters' Place's performance under this Agreement by means of site visits, as well as their monthly statistics and quarterly narratives.

The proposed Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy (the "Policy") pursuant to §3(a)(ix) of that Policy, which exempts contracts with teachers, lecturers and other education professionals or experts, as well as §3(a)(xviii) of that Policy, which exempts contracts for the advancement of the moral, physical, mental and social well being of the youth of Westchester County.

Accordingly, to allow the County to meet the requirements of New York Social Services Law section 459-c, I respectfully request and recommend the Board's approval of the attached Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Director of the Office for Women, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is authorized to enter into an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. to provide state-mandated domestic violence education and prevention services for Elementary, Junior and Senior High School students for a term of one year commencing January 1, 2010 and terminating December 31, 2010 in an amount not-to-exceed One Hundred Two Thousand Three Hundred Ten Dollars (\$102,310) in accordance with the workplan attached as Schedule A, of which

- o The County's share will be \$67,498: \$44,290 through the budget of the Office for Women; and \$23,208 which is the County's share of the Federal/State/County domestic violence money administered by the Office for Women under an Interdepartmental Cooperative Plan with the Department of Social Services;
- o New York State's share will be \$22,628, which is the State share of the Federal/State/County domestic violence money administered by the Office for Women under an Interdepartmental Cooperative Plan with the Department of Social Services; and
- o The Federal government's share will be \$12,184, which is the Federal share of the Federal/State/County domestic violence money administered by the Office for Women under an Interdepartmental Cooperative Plan with the Department of Social Services.

RESOLVED, that payments shall be made to My Sisters' Place, Inc. on a quarterly basis, for services rendered, in accordance with the workplan and budget attached as Schedules A and B; 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 authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute and deliver the aforesaid agreement and take any actions reasonably necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be charged/credited:

FUND	DEPT	Major Program, Program & Phase, Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	11	0900	4380	N/A	\$44,290
263	11	111K	4380	T111	\$58,020

Budget Funding Year(s) 2010 Start Date 1/1/2010 End Date 12/31/2010

(Must Match Resolution)

FUNDING SOURCE Tax Dollars \$67,498

State Aid \$22,628

Federal Aid \$12,184

\$102,310

(Must Match Resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 5-27-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM (DVEP)

2010 SCHEDULE A

Since 1981, the Domestic Violence Education and Prevention Program (DVEP) has worked with schools and local organizations in Westchester County to educate teens about the reality of dating violence. In our experience we have found that the most effective way to end teen dating violence is by going to the source—teens themselves. By collaborating with educators, we give young people the tools to recognize and break the cycle of violence in their lives. Our team of educators works with middle and high school age students through classroom presentations, individual counseling, and discussion groups.

Classroom Presentations

The Domestic Violence Education and Prevention (DVEP) Program works with schools and community organizations throughout Westchester County to provide educational prevention-based presentations to teens, serving both middle and high school age students. Presentations usually occur over two periods/days with the collaboration of school educators, most often taking place in health classes. Teachers are given a short video on teen dating violence to show in class prior to the presentations to familiarize students with the topic. The goal of the presentations is to get the students involved in their own learning experience about the issue of dating violence. Using various techniques such as discussion, role play, and supplemental materials, our educators work *with* students to expand their knowledge of teen dating violence and healthy friendships.

Rap Groups

DVEP also offers two 6 – 8 week long student rap discussion group cycles during the school year. These discussion groups cover intersecting issues such as alcohol and drug abuse, stalking, community violence, sexual health and warning signs of violence in LGBTQ relationships. Facilitators include My Sisters' Place staff, as well as other community educators. By creating a supportive environment where students are encouraged to talk openly with one another, rap groups are designed to expand the students' level of personal growth, while covering topics that may not otherwise be included in their educational experience. It has been our experience that the most effective Rap groups include no more than 10 students each session. Students in these Rap groups form closer bonds, become more involved in discussions and are more active participants.

Individual Supportive Counseling

Although many teens are familiar with dating violence, our classroom presentations and rap groups might be the first time they have had the words to label their experiences as abusive or to accurately describe how they feel about it. Often students have additional questions, or would like to speak with someone privately about their own experience with teen dating violence, sexual assault, or family violence. They may request to do so anonymously at the end of a presentation, or may contact My Sisters' Place offices directly. Since the community educators spend much of their time facilitating classroom presentations, Rap Groups and S.A.F.E.R., they are only available for a limited amount of time to meet individually with students. A limited number of individual supportive counseling sessions may occur at the school or at our agency's non-residential offices in White Plains or Yonkers with DVEP Program Coordinator.

S.A.F.E.R.

After much creative energies the DVEP team has redefined and given new direction to our S.A.F.E.R. (Student Advocating for Equality in Relationships) teen mentoring program. Historically, S.A.F.E.R. has aimed to run as a membership program where Westchester County teens would gather to discuss, raise awareness, and advocate against teen dating violence. In consideration of different factors S.A.F.E.R. has become a community service forum for teens. DVEP Community Educators interviewed current and past S.A.F.E.R. students and based on their input, and in identifying various needs expressed by both school personnel and students, we decided to reshape the program. In this new mission S.A.F.E.R. collaborates with existing youth groups in Westchester County schools and community agencies; to provide community service projects geared towards teen dating violence awareness in exchange for community service hours or credits. S.A.F.E.R. activities still include fundraising, participating in events to raise awareness about domestic violence, and various other projects but now the focus is on working with participants to gain a fuller understanding of the varied components of teen dating violence to prepare them to take a more active role as ambassadors and mentors in educating their peers.

**Westchester County Office for Women Grant for School-Based Programs
2010 Schedule A**

My Sisters' Place will provide non-residential services to middle and high school students under this contract.

Presentations	Level of Service-Goal
Number of Schools: This program will make presentations to the following number of schools and community organizations over the coming calendar year: Number of Unduplicated Schools:	<u>45</u> number of schools <u>25</u> unduplicated schools
Number of Presentations: This program will make the following number of presentations per month (summer months will average much less than this). A presentation is defined as either a classroom hour or one community presentation. A two-day presentation counts as two presentations.	<u>43</u> presentations per month <u>443</u> presentations per year (43 presentations X 10 mo. + 13 summer presentations)
Number of students: This program will reach the following number of Students:	<u>450</u> students per month <u>4585</u> annual (450 x 10 mo. + 85 students over the summer)
Rap Groups	Level of Service-Goal
A "contact" equals a client visit to a group session.	<u>2</u> cycles per year <u>6-8</u> sessions per cycle <u>7-10</u> student contacts per cycle
Individual Counseling	Level of Service-Goal
Individual Counseling This program will provide individual domestic violence counseling to students who request it.	<u>10-12</u> clients per year <u>24-48</u> sessions per year
Requests for Counseling	<u>6</u> requests per month
S.A.F.E.R.	Level of Service-Goal
S.A.F.E.R. collaborates with existing youth groups in Westchester County schools and community agencies to provide community service projects geared towards teen dating violence awareness in exchange for community service hours or credits.	<u>12</u> meetings per year <u>5-10</u> students per meeting <u>6</u> community projects per year

Measuring Program Effectiveness:

As a result of participating in D.V.E.P. presentations, the following outcomes are expected:

- 80% of students will show an increased understanding of teen dating violence dynamics.
- 85% of students will show demonstrated knowledge of the warning signs of teen relationship violence.
- 80% of students will show an increased understanding of the impact of gender stereotyping.

These outcomes will be measured through pre-tests and post-tests distributed before the initial presentations and after final presentations.

Schedule B
My Sisters' Place, INC
Domestic Violence Education and Prevention Program (DVEP)
Budget 1/01/10 to 12/31/2010

Expenses	Amount
Personal Services	
Deputy Director of Programs .05 FTE	\$ 3,350.00
Education Coordinator .20FTE	\$ 9,000.00
Educator 1.0 FTE	\$ 32,000.00
Educator 1.0FTE	\$ 34,000.00
Sub Total	\$ 78,350.00
Fringe Benefits	\$ 15,670.00
Total Personal Services	\$ 94,020.00
OTPS	
Telephone	\$ 700.00
Supplies & materials	\$ 1,210.00
Rent & utilities	\$ 2,500.00
Travel	\$ 3,880.00
Total OTPS	\$ 8,290.00
Total Expenses	\$ 102,310.00

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