



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

Date: January 19, 2010

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner of Social Services

Re: Authority for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Young Men's Christian Association of Central and Northern Westchester, NY, Inc. d/b/a Mount Vernon Family YMCA located at 20 South Second Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York to operate an emergency overnight center for the period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 in an amount not-to-exceed \$80,000 payable monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Young Men's Christian Association of Central and Northern Westchester, NY, Inc., d/b/a Mount Vernon Family YMCA located at 20 South Second Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York to operate an emergency overnight center for the period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 in an amount not-to-exceed \$80,000 (the "Agreement"), payable monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The emergency overnight center will be utilized to provide a warm place for those individuals who would otherwise be exposed to inclement weather conditions. The facility will be open in 2010 from January through April 15 and from October 15 through December 31st. This emergency shelter is to be utilized by people who do not reside in any of the established shelters in the County.

The **public purpose** of the program is to assist the most vulnerable of the population by providing a place to sleep and/or escape from the elements, thereby ensuring their safety and health.

The **goals and objectives** of the agreement are to provide a safe, warm and supervised place for homeless individuals who are outside the County's system, to sleep at night. The services provided through the proposed agreement are the following:

- To provide a safe overnight shelter for the targeted population to keep them off the streets during the night hours and prevent their exposure to extreme weather conditions
- To provide persons entering the drop-in center the opportunity to rest in a supervised area setting. Mount Vernon YMCA Staff oversees and provides supervision at the overnight center to enhance security

The goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of **public health** as the Center protects the targeted population from the elements, the sicknesses and associated general health-related issues and also provides a safe environment in which to sleep during the night hours. During the winter, when temperatures drop, the safe haven of the emergency shelter reduces vulnerable citizens' environmental exposure to winter temperatures which can cause hypothermia, frostbite, and other ailments, including death. The goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of public safety as the center provides a safe environment for the targeted population to sleep as an alternative to their sleeping on the streets.

Failure to provide this emergency shelter would increase the risk of this population being victimized while sleeping in a public, unsecured location.

The proposed Agreement is **fiscally responsible** because the overnight center provides homeless refuge in a cost effective way:

- This level of service meets urgent critical needs. Persons accessing the drop-in center may not want to enter the formal homeless shelters. They are provided information, referrals, and counseling about the services that are available to combat their homelessness. Persons are also given linkages to community based organizations that can help them, rather than solely relying on the County to provide services.
- This program serves anyone in need and no one is turned away.
- The average emergency overnight center cost is \$69.00 per night per person while the average homeless shelter cost is in excess of \$100 per day.
- The drop-in center only provides the services that the population is willing to accept. Therefore, the Department does not purchase services that will not be used. Eligible persons can access services that would be offered at a traditional shelter through referrals from the drop-in centers when and if they are appropriate.
- The provision of shelter to homeless individuals is the least costly way to meet this basic need, especially for the myriad individuals with chronic mental and/or medical issues who often utilize a variety of public systems in an inefficient manner. People who are homeless tend to spend more time in the hospital per visit and demonstrate a greater likelihood to spend more time in jail or prison.

The goals and objectives of this contract will be monitored by the Department through the electronic submission of reports approved by the Budget Office, as well as through direct

contact with the Department. The Department uses the Performance Measurement Indicators approved by the Westchester County Budget Office to evaluate the performance of the vendor and the effectiveness of the program.

Given below is the break down of beds filled in during the Fall and Winter months under the previous contract:

2009

Jan	255
Feb	253
Mar	350
Apr	243
Oct	155
Nov	210
Dec	<u>248</u>
TOTAL	1,714

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

Accordingly, your favorable action on the annexed Resolution authorizing an agreement with the Young Men's Christian Association of Central and Northern Westchester, NY, Inc. d/b/a Mount Vernon Family YMCA is respectfully recommended.

KPM/DI/di

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 24-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Young Men's Christian Association of Central and Northern Westchester, NY, Inc. d/b/a Mount Vernon Family YMCA located at 20 South Second Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York to operate an emergency overnight center for the period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 in an amount not-to-exceed \$80,000 payable 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 (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 duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to take such action and execute such documents as may be necessary and proper to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010	101	22	8900	5860	----	\$80,000

Budget Funding Year(s) 2010 Start Date: 1/1/10 End Date: 12/31/10
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: 50%
State Aid: 50%
\$80,000.00 Federal Aid:
(must match resolution) Other _____

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