

74634

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 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Resolution to exempt the procurement of an agreement with Make the Road New York, pursuant to which it will provide free legal services for immigrants pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) the Westchester County Procurement Policy.

Authority is hereby requested from your Honorable Board to exempt the procurement of an agreement (the "Agreement") between the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") and Make the Road New York ("MRNY"), pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy. MRNY will provide free legal services for immigrants, for a term commencing on January 1, 2020 and continuing through December 31, 2020.

Lack of lawful immigration status is one of the root causes of instability and vulnerability in the lives of immigrants and often a means of control by perpetrators of abuse. Access to high quality legal representation is key in the ability for eligible Westchester residents to file petitions or applications, which put the resident on a pathway to legal permanent residence and eventually citizenship.

The County believes that the requested exemption is justified because MRNY has successfully provided these services under contracts administered through the Office for Women since 2018. MRNY has been providing services for over 25 years and has extensive experience working with immigrants. MRNY has represented clients in a wide array of immigration cases including applications for U Visas, VAWA, SIJS, legal permanent resident status, citizenship and work authorizations.

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 MRNY to assist immigrants in processing U Visa and VAWA applications, represent immigrants in SIJS cases, and represent immigrants in humanitarian-based cases.

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

In the years that MRNY has been funded through contracts administered by the Office for Women, your Board has determined that it was in the best interests of the County to exempt those contracts from the Westchester County Procurement Policy requirements because of its unique focus.

Based on the foregoing, it is proposed that the best interests of the County would be served by again exempting the procurement of the proposed Agreement from the Westchester County Procurement Policy 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, 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 of Westchester in connection with the procurement of an agreement with Make the Road New York ("MRNY"), for a term commencing on January 1, 2020 and continuing through December 31, 2020, pursuant to which MRNY will provide free legal services for immigrants.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 03/21/20 - USA MARIJAJ, SECRETARY