

75671

DATE March 27, 2020

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Norma V. Drummond
Commissioner of Planning

SUBJECT: Resolution to exempt the procurement of an agreement from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) for an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for the provision of legal services to families in connection with housing resettlement and eviction prevention and for residents of multi-units buildings.

Authority is hereby requested from your Honorable Board to exempt from the application of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof, the procurement of an agreement between the County of Westchester ("County") and Legal Services of the Hudson Valley ("LSHV") to provide funding for the provision of legal services to eligible families in connection with housing resettlement and eviction prevention. For many years, the County has retained LSHV for the provision of legal services to eligible low income households facing eviction. LSHV will provide at least 500 households with civil legal assistance; will prevent a minimum of 180 households from eviction from their homes; and will provide legal services to prevent the loss of affordable housing rental units in multi-family dwellings and provide legal representation to tenants in subsidized housing complexes whose rights may have been violated. The agreement will be in the not-to-exceed amount of \$494,001.00 pursuant to an approved budget, and the term of the agreement is January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

The Department of Planning is requesting an exemption because LSHV has been providing legal eviction prevention services to low income residents and housing resettlement services to residents in multi-unit buildings in order to prevent the loss of affordable housing rental units, with County funding, since 1998. The majority of their clients receive public assistance benefits, while other clients receive benefits from other governmental agencies, such as Medicaid and the Veteran's Administration. The variety of issues that need to be addressed, as well as the number of housing court locations that may require attendance at the same time, require that these services be provided by an agency with capacity, expertise and a local presence. This agency has the expertise and experience to provide the appropriate services, the capacity to provide these services and the local offices to provide the services at locations that are easily accessible to those who need these services.

In light of the above facts, it is proposed that the best interest of the County would be served by exempting the procurement of this agreement from the procedures of 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.

NVD/cp
Attachment

RESOLUTION

UPON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING 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 of Westchester in connection with the procurement of an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for the provision of legal services to eligible low income households in need of eviction protection for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

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APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 04/09/2020 LSHV/PAJ, SECRETARY