



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

Date: January 25, 2010

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

Subject: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with The Sharing Community, Inc., to operate an emergency overnight center for up to nineteen (19) individuals located at 81 Locust Hill Ave., Yonkers, New York for the period of March 16, 2010 through March 15, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$264,749 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

The County of Westchester requests authorization to enter into an agreement with The Sharing Community, Inc. to operate an emergency overnight center for up to nineteen (19) individuals located at 81 Locust Hill Ave., Yonkers, New York for the period of March 16, 2010 through March 15, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$264,749 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. There has been no change in the amount requested for the new contract.

The emergency overnight shelter will provide a sleep site on a nightly basis for those individuals who are not current referrals to the established shelters.

The **public purpose** of the proposed agreement is to ensure the health and safety of those who do not have a place to sleep during the night hours.

The **goal and objective** of this contract is to assist the most vulnerable of the population who are outside the County's established shelter system by providing a safe place to sleep and/or to escape from the elements. This service is in compliance with the NYS laws and regulations requiring the provision of emergency housing for the homeless.

The **goal and objective of this contract is in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and public safety as** it is aimed at the safety and well being of the targeted population. The center protects these individuals from the elements and general health-related

issues associated with sleeping in public places. Further, keeping this population off the streets during night hours will promote a safer and more secure environment for the County residents.

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 the basic needs, particularly for those with chronic illness who use a variety of public systems in an inefficient and costly 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 given linkages to community based organizations that can help them rather than solely relying on the County to provide services.
- 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 hospital per visit and demonstrate a greater likelihood to spend more time in jail or prison.
- As of December 2009, homeless people utilized a total of 6,930 bed nights. The average center cost translated to \$38.20 per night per person. The range for the homeless shelter cost for single individuals is \$105 - \$148 per night per person.

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 (e.g., 18 NYCRR sec. 352.35).

The **goal and objective will be monitored** 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 County Budget Office to evaluate the performance of the vendor and the effectiveness of the program.

The **Department is able to report that the vendor's Performance Measurement Indicators** reflect that the vendor met its goal of providing emergency overnight housing to eligible customers referred by the Department. The facility accepted 100% of appropriate referrals during the 2009-10 contract period. The data collected as of December 31, 2009 reflects a monthly average of approximately 588 bed nights or a daily occupancy rate of 18.9 individuals. The bed utilization as of 12/31/09 has an aggregated total of 6,930 bed nights.

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

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with The Sharing Community, Inc. for the above said purpose.

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

R E S O L U T I O N

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

RESOLVED, the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with The Sharing Community, Inc. to operate an emergency overnight shelter for up to nineteen (19) individuals, located at 81 Locust Hill Ave., Yonkers, New York for the period of March 16, 2010 through March 15, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$264,749 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 (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 empowered to execute any document necessary to implement this Resolution.

| | Fund | Dept | Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit | Object/ Sub-Object | Trust Account | Dollars |
|------|------|------|--|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 2010 | 101 | 22 | 8900 | 5860 | ----- | \$209,593 |
| 2011 | 101 | 22 | 8900 | 5860 | ----- | \$ 55,156 |
| | | | | | | |

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

Start Date: 3/16/2010

End Date: 3/15/2011

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 50%

State Aid: 50%

Federal Aid: _____

Other: _____

\$264,749
(must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 3-4-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY