

77945

DATE July 14, 2020

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Norma V. Drummond
Commissioner of Planning

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the agreement between the County of Westchester and Human Development Services of Westchester, Inc. to provide homeless prevention services in Westchester Urban County Consortium Communities.

The attached resolution authorizes the County of Westchester ("County") to enter into an agreement with Human Development Services of Westchester, Inc. to provide a grant from the Emergency Solutions Grant ("ESG") Program authorized by the Homeless Emergency and Rapid Rehousing Transition of Housing Act, enacted in 2009. The grant funds will be used as assistance in order to prevent homelessness for households in Westchester Urban County Consortium Communities whose incomes are at or below 30% of the County's Area Median Income ("AMI"). The amount of the grant is \$78,750.00, pursuant to an approved budget, and the term of the agreement is August 15, 2020 to August 14, 2021.

Human Development Services of Westchester, Inc. ("HDSW") will use the ESG funds to provide counseling services to 50 to 100 households and an additional 108 households will receive emergency financial assistance in the form of grants as described herein. Grants will be made to provide housing relocation and stabilization services and short-term rental assistance to households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including, but not limited to: 1) Rent payment assistance for up to three months, which may include past due rent, a security deposit that is equal to no more than 2 months' rent, and/or the last month's rent at the time the security deposit and the first month's rent are paid to the owner. 2) Up to 6 months of utility arrears, per service, with eligible utility services including gas, electric, water, and sewage; and 3) Moving costs, such as truck rental or hiring a moving company.

The goal and objective of this agreement is to prevent homelessness in extremely low income households in Westchester Urban County Consortium Communities. The program will be monitored by the Westchester County Department of Planning staff, who will review all payment requests to ensure all contractual requirements are met.

In accordance to the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures, the Department of Planning issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on October 21, 2019, seeking proposals from organizations to provide homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing services designed to prevent the incidence of homelessness to extremely low-income households residing in Westchester Urban County Consortium Communities. Three (3) agencies submitted proposals.

The County is proposing to enter into agreements with two of the proposers, (i) The Bridge Fund of New York, Inc. in the amount of \$60,000.00 and (ii) Human Development Services of Westchester, Inc. in the amount of \$78,750.00. The third proposer, Keeping Communities Safe, did not qualify as the application was incomplete. A separate resolution will be submitted for authority to enter into an agreement with The Bridge Fund of New York, Inc.

Act # 20-2020, adopted March 9, 2020, by the Westchester County Board of Legislators, authorized the County to submit an Urban County Application under the Federal Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant, and HOME Investment Partnership Program, including a FY 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and to accept such Grants.

I recommend approval of this agreement.

NVD/cp
Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 07/30/2020 - USY-MRIJAS, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

UPON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING, BE IT HEREBY

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Human Development Services of Westchester, Inc., through the Emergency Solutions Grant Program, in the amount of \$78,750.00 pursuant to an approved budget, for a period beginning August 15, 2020, and ending August 14, 2021, to provide counseling services to 50 to 100 households and an additional 108 households will receive emergency financial assistance in form of grants to families who live in the Westchester Urban County Communities in order to prevent homelessness, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is authorized to execute any documents and take any actions necessary to effectuate purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
263	19	215V	4380	T215	\$78,750

Budget Funding Year(s) (must match resolution) FY 2020 Start Date August 15, 2020 End Date August 14, 2021

Funding Source Tax Dollars _____

State Aid _____

\$78,750 Federal Aid \$78,750 – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

(must match resolution)

Other _____