

78066

DATE July 21, 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 Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. to provide Eviction Prevention services in Westchester County.

The attached resolution authorizes the County of Westchester (“County”) to enter into an agreement with Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. to provide a grant from the Emergency Solutions COVID-19 Grant (“ESG-CV”) Program authorized by the CARES Act Funding, enacted in 2020. The grant funds will be used to provide assistance to very low income households in Westchester County who are at or below 50% of the County’s Area Median Income (“AMI”) in order to prevent homelessness. Funding will be provided to households that have been denied assistance by the Westchester County Department of Social Services. The amount of the grant is \$85,000.00, pursuant to an approved budget, and the term of the agreement is August 1, 2020 to April 30, 2022.

Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. will use ESG-CV funds to expand their current services to assist in the prevention of homelessness due to COVID-19. They will provide funding for approximately 70 qualifying households to prevent eviction, and utility shut-offs within the guidelines of the ESG-CV program with priority given to residents of Consortium Communities in order to prevent homelessness in the County.

The goal and objective of this agreement is to prevent homelessness in very low income families in the County impacted by COVID-19. 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.

The Department of Planning issued a public Request for Proposals (“RFP”) on May 27, 2020, seeking proposals from organizations to provide assistance to keep low and moderate income Westchester residents from becoming homeless. Funds will be given to low income households residing in Westchester Urban County Consortium communities. In accordance to the County of Westchester’s Procurement Policy and Procedures, the RFP was posted on the County’s website.

As of June 10, 2020, eight (8) agencies submitted proposals, Elizabeth Office Services, Choice of New Rochelle, Human Development Service of Westchester, Community Housing Innovations, The Bridge Fund of New York, Inc., Keeping Communities Safe, Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. and Washingtonville Housing Alliance. The following organization will not receive funding as their proposals for several reasons including an incomplete application, the agency is not a 501(c)(3), the agency wished to provide foreclosure prevent services, or the focus of their proposal was not on Consortium municipalities: Elizabeth Office Services, Human Development Service of Westchester, The Bridge Fund of New York, Inc. and Keeping Communities Safe.

The following organizations will receive funding as they submitted comparable proposals, Choice of New Rochelle will receive \$80,000.00; Community Housing Innovations will receive \$85,000.00, Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. will receive \$85,000.00 and Washingtonville Housing Alliance will receive \$100,000.00. Separate resolutions will be submitted for authority to enter into agreements with each of these organizations.

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

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 Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., through the Emergency Solutions Grant Program, in the amount of \$85,000.00 pursuant to an approved budget, for a period beginning August 1, 2020, and ending April 30, 2022, will provide arrears funds for approximately 70 qualifying very low income households to prevent eviction, or utility shut-off within the guidelines of the ESG-CV program with priority given to residents who live in a Westchester Urban County Consortium municipality, 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	\$85,000.00

Budget Funding Year(s) (must match resolution) FY 2020 Start Date August 1, 2020 End Date April 30, 2022

Funding Source Tax Dollars _____

State Aid _____

\$85,000.00 Federal Aid \$85,000.00 – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

(must match resolution)

Other _____