

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon  
Commissioner

**DATE:** April 16, 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 Volunteers of America – Greater New York, Inc. to operate a shelter for up to nineteen (19) homeless medically frail men and women at a facility known as the Valhalla Residence located at Sunshine Cottage Road on the Valhalla Campus for the period from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$748,923 to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$113.39 pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

The County of Westchester requests authorization to enter into an agreement with Volunteers of America – Greater New York, Inc. to operate a shelter for up to nineteen (19) homeless medically frail men and women at a facility known as the Valhalla Residence located at Sunshine Cottage Road on the Valhalla Campus for the period from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$748,923 to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$113.39 pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. There has been no increase in the amount requested for the proposed agreement.

The services to be provided pursuant to the proposed agreement serve a **public purpose** by assisting the County to provide immediate emergency shelter to eligible homeless medically frail men and women.

Valhalla Residence will provide 24-hour supervision, meals, counseling as well as supportive services including assistance in finding permanent housing and employment. The case manager will provide casework services including linkage to medical and mental health providers. These services are aimed at improving the quality of life of the homeless population in the County.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement are as follows:

- to provide shelter to homeless medically frail males and females
- to provide supportive services that include helping medically frail men and women to find permanent housing and employment to support their transition from welfare to economic independence
- to enhance safety by providing vulnerable medically frail adults with transitional housing which will reduce the risk of them becoming victims of crime and developing more severe health related issues that result from not having appropriate shelter

- Eligible homeless individuals will receive direct support services: linkages to programs to address their medical and mental health needs; weekly case management sessions and employment referrals
- Homeless individuals will have access to housing, food, medical, counseling and other supportive services until permanent housing is secured.

The goals and objectives of this program are in **the best interests of the County in terms of public health and public safety** as they are aimed at enhancing and ensuring the health and safety of the targeted population.

The goals and objectives are in the County's **best interests in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they will help medically frail men and women to transition off welfare and thereby lower public assistance costs. The payments for this program are based upon an approximated per diem rate. The vendor payment for services is based upon the monthly occupancy rate in contrast to a flat fee schedule.

**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.** Without this program, the Department will have a reduced capacity to house medically frail men and women. Further, the Department's permanent capacity to provide homeless shelter placements will be reduced since its ability to open new homeless shelters is limited.

**The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored** using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The contractor is required to submit to the Department, monthly statistical reports on all activities related to the program.

**The Department is able to report that the Vendor's Performance Measurement Indicators** reflect that the transitional housing program operated by Volunteers of America – Greater New York, Inc. met its goal of housing eligible customers referred by the Department. The facility accepted 100% of appropriate referrals during the 2009-2010 contract period. This program effectively provided shelter and supportive services for 27 medically frail adults. Thirty (30) percent of residents secured permanent housing. As of 3/31/10, we are able to report the following outcomes:

- Average Length of Stay for all customers: 216 days
- 8 or 30% of the men secured permanent housing
- 2 or 7 % of the men secured transitional housing

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 Volunteers of America – Greater New York, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

# RESOLUTION

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Volunteers of America – Greater New York, Inc. to operate a shelter for up to nineteen (19) homeless medically frail men and women at a facility known as Valhalla Residence located at Sunshine Cottage Road on the Valhalla Campus for the period from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$748,923 to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$113.39 pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Agreement 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.

Account to be Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010	101	22	8900	5860	_____	\$374,461
2011	101	22	8900	5860	_____	\$374,462

Budget Funding Year(s) 2010-2011  
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 7/1/10

End Date: 6/30/11

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: \_\_\_\_\_ 50%

State Aid: \_\_\_\_\_ 50%

\$748,923  
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_