

April 14, 2010

TO: Honorable Members  
Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Rocco A. Pozzi  
Commissioner of Probation

RE: **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$87,390 FOR ITS VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROGRAM TO PROVIDE CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF RAPE AND SERVICES TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OR WITNESSES TO VIOLENCE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2010, PURSUANT TO AN APPROVED BUDGET**

Authority is sought for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$87,390, for its Victims Assistance Services Program to provide crisis intervention services to victims of rape and services to children who have been victims or witnesses to violence, for the period January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010, pursuant to an approved budget. Funding for this program is included in the 2010 County Budget.

The Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., through its Victims Assistance Services Rape Crisis Program, provides supportive casework and counseling services to victims of rape, sexual assault and sexual abuse in Westchester County.

In addition to providing counseling and assistance services to residents of Westchester County who have been victims of rape and child victims who have witnessed violence, the Victims Assistance Services Program provides clinical services to adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, families of rape victims and special populations including adolescents.

This contract has the public purpose of promoting public safety for residents of Westchester by providing immediate crisis intervention to rape victims, as well as services and support to children who witness violence, including domestic violence and sexual assault.

The performance measures are:

- Maintain a 24 hour Rape Crisis Helpline to provide immediate crisis intervention information and referral for victims of rape. During the 2009 contract period, the Helpline served 266 victims.
- Victims Assistance Advocates will reach out to at least 50 rape and sexual assault victims who request assistance for follow-up. During the 2009 contract period advocates provided follow-up to 59 victims.
- VAS Rape Crisis Community Educators will provide training in rape and sexual assault to law enforcement through the Westchester County Police Academy, at least once a year. During the 2009 contract period Victims Assistance Services conducted 4 training sessions at the Academy.
- VAS Rape Crisis Program will recruit a minimum of 10 volunteer advocates. Throughout 2009, 13 volunteer advocates were recruited and trained.
- Community Educators will provide training to colleges, middle and high schools (target 25). During the previous contract period, 146 workshops were conducted at colleges, middle and high schools.
- VAS will provide education about sexual and intimate partner violence to children and teens (target 1,250). During the 2009 contract period Victims Assistance Services provided these educational services to 1,581 children and teenagers.

The performance measures are tracked and monitored through statistical quarterly reports submitted to the Commissioner of Probation. During 2010 the performance measures will remain as outlined above.

The Rape Crisis Program utilizes volunteers for many services. These volunteers assist with answering hotlines, acting as a hospital advocate, and assisting in evening and/or weekend community event presentations. Over 500 hours of hotline time were performed by volunteers, and Victims Assistance Services is currently training more volunteer advocates.

This contract impacts the County's three (3) critical priority areas in the following manner:

1. Fiscal Responsibility –The Rape Crisis Program provides 24 hour access for rape services. This is accomplished through a coterie of Volunteer Rape Crisis Counselor Advocates who respond to Rape Crisis Helpline calls. If this resolution is not approved, the loss of these comprehensive services to victims of crime throughout the Westchester community, will be detrimental to taxpayers, especially since the program trains and utilizes volunteers, decreasing the burden on taxpayers.
2. Safety and Security – This program serves victims of sexual assault throughout Westchester County. If this resolution were not approved, the safety and security of all victims of sexual assault would be compromised.

3. Health and Environment – This program provides outreach and prevention to many middle and high schools, colleges and agencies throughout the County. In addition, the program provides counseling and services to residents of Westchester who have been victims who witnessed violence. If this resolution were not approved, the ability to provide clinical services to adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, families of rape victims, and special populations including adolescents would be severely reduced thus impacting the health of this targeted community.

This Agreement is exempt from application of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a) viii thereof.

Accordingly, approval of the attached resolution is most respectfully requested.

RAP/LR

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 5-6-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

## RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of Probation, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that authority is hereby granted to the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$87,390 for its Victims Assistance Services Program to provide crisis intervention services to victims of rape and services to children who have been victims or witnesses to violence, for the period January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010, to be paid pursuant to an approved budget, and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that this Agreement is subject to County appropriations. 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 terms 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 releases(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 it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to execute this agreement for the County of Westchester.

Agreement # \_\_\_\_\_

Account to be Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	39	1000	4132		\$87,390

Budget Funding Year(s) 2010 Start Date Jan. 1, 2010 End Date December 31, 2010  
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source	Tax Dollars <u>\$87,390</u>
<u>\$87,390</u>	State Aid _____
(must match resolution)	Federal Aid _____
	Other _____