

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

DATE: April 23, 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 Y.W.C.A. of White Plains, Inc. to operate a shelter for up to twelve (12) homeless single women just released from prison in a program known as Awakenings located at 69 North Broadway, White Plains, New York 10605 for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$137,536 to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$32.97 pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The County of Westchester requests authorization to enter into an agreement with the Y.W.C.A. of White Plains, Inc. to operate a shelter for up to twelve (12) homeless single women just released from prison in a program known as Awakenings located at 69 North Broadway, White Plains, New York for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$137,536 to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$32.97 pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. There has been no increase in the amount requested from that of last year's budget.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement serve a **public purpose** by assisting the County to provide immediate emergency services to eligible homeless women just released from prison.

The Y.W.C.A. of White Plains Awakening program will provide 24 hour supervision, meals, counseling as well as supportive services, including assistance in finding permanent housing, assistance with seeking and obtaining employment and casework services. 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 single women just released from prison
- to provide supportive services that include helping homeless women just released from prison to find permanent housing and employment to support their transition from welfare to economic independence

The goals and objectives of this program are in **the best interest 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 program enhances and ensures safety by providing vulnerable single women just released from prison with transitional housing
- Housing single women will reduce their risk of becoming victims of crime and developing general health related issues that result from not having appropriate shelter
- Eligible homeless single women will receive direct support services: employment and training, weekly case management sessions, life skills workshops and transportation, in addition to linkages to programs to address their medical and mental health needs until permanent housing is secured

The goals and objectives are in the **best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they will help single women to transition off welfare and thereby lower the cost of public assistance. Research conducted by the Nicholson Foundation in a study in Essex County, New Jersey indicates that unless newly released prisoners can obtain jobs, find a place to live and obtain substance abuse, health and mental health treatment, the majority will return to prison within three years, many within six months. The Awakenings program provides employment and supportive services with the goal of reducing recidivism for ex-offenders. The County may realize savings in the following areas:

- According to the Three Year Recidivism Study of 2006 conducted in the state of Illinois by Dr. Art Lurigio of Loyola University, 24 percent or one in five clients who received employment services and other supportive services similar to the Awakening Program returned to prison within three years of their release compared to the statewide average of 51.8 percent. The County would experience a reduction in the cost for housing repeat offenders at the County Penitentiary and associated court costs.
- As the participants in this program become gainfully employed, their dependency on public assistance funding is significantly reduced.
- The payment schedule is 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 for service.

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 single women just released from prison. 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 quarterly 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 Y.W.C.A. of White Plains Awakening Program met its goal of housing eligible customers referred by the on-site substance abuse programs at the County Penitentiary, Solutions and Community Link. During the 2009 – 2010 contract period, this facility accepted 100% appropriate referrals. This program effectively provided shelter and supportive services for 20 homeless single women just released from jail. The average monthly occupancy rate was 50% with an average of 6 participants. 100% of the participants were enrolled in the on-site vocational program and an off-site community-based treatment program. As of 3/31/10, this program achieved the following outcomes:

- Average Length of Stay for all customers: 154 days
- 6 or 30% of customers secured permanent housing
- 2 or 10% of customers secured transitional housing

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) (xiv) which exempts contracts with not-for-profit organizations for the purposes of providing aid, care and support to persons in need of public assistance.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with the Y.W.C.A. of White Plains, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 5-13-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

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 the Y.W.C.A. of White Plains, Inc. to operate a shelter for up to twelve (12) homeless single women just released from prison through a program known as Awakenings located at 69 North Broadway, White Plains, New York for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$137,536 to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$32.97 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.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010	101	22	8900	5860	_____	\$68,768
2011	101	22	8900	5860	_____	\$68,768

Budget Funding Year(s): 2010-2011 Start Date: 7/1/10 End Date: 6/30/11
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

\$137,536
(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: 50%
State Aid: 50%
Federal Aid _____
Other _____