



12243

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

DATE: June 16, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Authority to amend a Resolution approved on May 13, 2010 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 through a program known as Awakenings located at 69 North Broadway, White Plains, New York 10605 for the period from 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 for the limited purpose of changing the name of the contractor to reflect its correct legal name

By resolution approved May 13, 2010, your Honorable Board authorized the County to enter into 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.

Authority is now requested to amend the May 13, 2010 Resolution by correcting the name of the contractor as outlined below to reflect its correct legal name.

Change From: Y.W.C.A. of White Plains, Inc.

Change To: Young Women's Christian Association of White Plains and Central Westchester

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 Awakening program will provide 24 hour supervision, meals and 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.

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 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% of 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

Except as specifically amended hereby, everything else in the resolution approved on May 13, 2010 shall remain the same. The amendment is to the resolution because the contract has not been executed.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 7-1-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

R E S O L U T I O N

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

RESOLVED, that the Resolution approved on May 13, 2010 authorizing 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 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 is hereby amended by correcting the name of the contractor to reflect its correct legal name as given below;

Change From: **Y.W.C.A. of White Plains, Inc.**

Change To: **Young Women’s Christian Association of White Plains and Central Westchester**

and be it further

RESOLVED, that except as specifically amended hereby all other terms and conditions of the resolution approved on May 13, 2010 shall remain the same, 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
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Budget Funding Year(s): **N/A** Start Date: **N/A** End Date: **N/A**
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: **N/A**
 State Aid: **N/A**
N/A Federal Aid: **N/A**
 (must match resolution) Other: **N/A**