

14367

DATE: October 1, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Edward Burroughs
Acting Commissioner of Planning

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the County of Westchester to Enter Into an Agreement with Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., for a Low/Moderate Income Senior Housing Counseling Program in the Westchester Urban County Consortium Communities

The attached resolution authorizes the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., (WRO) to provide a grant from the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The grant will fund a low/moderate income Senior Housing Counseling Program. The amount of the grant is \$79,000.00, and the term of the agreement is July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization that offers extensive senior housing assistance and technical housing services to low/moderate income residents of Westchester County. WRO is the only HUD-certified counseling agency in Westchester. WRO will provide counseling to low/moderate income seniors that will assist seniors in maintaining/securing appropriate housing, resolve housing problems, and securing housing related entitlements. During this year's contract period, WRO will counsel and assist 120 senior homeowners on reverse mortgages, 90% of whom will be low-to-moderate income households. It is anticipated that 50 reverse mortgages will result from these counseling sessions. WRO counselors will also assist 30 seniors in securing affordable appropriate community-based rental housing. WRO will also provide a streamlined and more efficient intake process for seniors who are requesting housing services assistance, via the implementation of the 1-877-WRO-4YOU anti-predatory lending/mortgage default hotline offered by United Way of Westchester and Putnam's 211 program. During last year's contract period, WRO was not able to attain all their goals. Due to the new requirement by HUD to pass a national reverse mortgage examination, WRO was not able to meet their goals to provide reverse mortgage counseling as they were unable to pass the examination early in the contract period. WRO's counselor has since passed the exam and is the only person in Westchester County who has passed the examination and eligible to provide reverse mortgage counseling. We anticipate WRO will meet or exceed their goals for this new contract period.

This agreement will serve the public purpose of promoting fiscal responsibility and providing counseling and affordable housing options to seniors in Westchester.

The goal and objective of this agreement is to assist seniors in maintaining/securing appropriate housing, resolving housing problems and securing housing related entitlements. The program will be monitored by the Westchester County Department of Planning staff, who will review the payment requests to make sure all contractual requirements are met.

This procurement is in compliance with the County of Westchester Procurement Policy Procedures, pursuant to Section 3(a)xvi, which states that contracts with recipients for disbursement of grants or loans under the Community Development Block Grant Program are exempt.

Act # 11-2010, adopted March 15, 2010, by the Westchester County Board of Legislators, authorized the County to file an FY 2009-2013 Consolidated Plan application consisting of an Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2010 as an Urban County to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

On April 29, 2010, the Board of Acquisition and Contract approved a resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the thirty-fifth year grant totaling \$8,473,589.00 from HUD. The allocation for the Community Development Block Grant Program is \$6,378,239.00. This project will be funded from the thirty-fifth year CDBG allocation.

I recommend approval of this agreement.

EB/cp
Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 11-18-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

R E S O L U T I O N

UPON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE ACTING 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 Community Development Block Grant Program, in the amount of \$79,000.00, pursuant to an approved budget, for a term beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011, to conduct a senior housing counseling program that will help 130 senior homeowners in their reverse mortgage program, which will result in the issuance of 50 reverse mortgages, incorporate the United Way of Westchester and Putnam's 211 program into the intake process and assist 30 seniors with securing affordable appropriate community based rental housing in the Westchester Urban County Consortium communities, 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.

Recommended for Approval:

Account to be Charged/Credited

		Major Program, Program & Phase	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
Fund	Dept	Or Unit			
263	19	067K	4380	T067	\$79,000.00

Budget Funding Year(s) 2010 Start Date July 1, 2010 End Date June 30, 2011
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars _____

State Aid _____

\$79,000.00 Federal Aid \$79,000.00 – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

(must match resolution)

Other _____

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