

14369

DATE: October 1, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Edward Buroughs  
Acting Commissioner of Planning

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the Agreement Between the County of Westchester and Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., for a Mortgage Foreclosure/Default Program in the Westchester Urban County Consortium Communities

The attached resolution authorizes the County of Westchester to enter into a grant agreement with Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., (WRO) to provide a grant from the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The grant will be used to fund a Mortgage Foreclosure/Default Program. The amount of the grant is \$85,000.00 and the term of the agreement is July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization established to address the critical needs of low-income Westchester residents, such as the promotion of equal, affordable and accessible housing opportunities, and mortgage foreclosure/default services. WRO will provide enhanced mortgage foreclosure counseling and legal services to income eligible homeowners in the Westchester Urban County Consortium that are going through and/or anticipate having a mortgage foreclosure/default case. Mortgage Rescue Funds will be made available to households who can demonstrate the ability to make future mortgage payments if WRO deems them eligible for such funds. At least 51% of the households served will be from Consortium communities and will have household incomes not exceeding 80% of the County Area Median Income for their household size. WRO will also provide a streamlined and more efficient intake process for potential default and delinquent homeowners 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. It is anticipated that 400 households will benefit from this program this year. Last year WRO was not able to meet all their goals as a large number of clients with foreclosure issues did not reside in a consortium community and therefore were not eligible for this program. We anticipate that WRO will meet or exceed their goals for this new contract period, as recent foreclosure data filed in the County Clerk's office has shown that mortgage defaults are more widespread now.

This agreement will serve the public purpose of promoting fiscal responsibility and preventing homelessness in Westchester County.

The goal and objective of this agreement is to provide mortgage foreclosure counseling and legal services to income eligible homeowners in the Westchester Urban County Consortium that are going through and/or anticipate having mortgage foreclosure/default problems. The program will be monitored by the Westchester County Department of Planning staff. WRO will submit activity reports with their voucher submissions.

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

# RESOLUTION

UPON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING, BE IT HEREBY

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into a grant agreement with Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. (WRO), through the Community Development Block Grant Program, in the amount of \$85,000.00, pursuant to an approved budget, for a term beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011, to provide mortgage foreclosure counseling and legal services to income eligible homeowners in the Westchester Urban County Consortium, who are going through and/or anticipate having mortgage foreclosure/default problems, and incorporate the United Way of Westchester and Putnam's 211 program into the intake process, 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/	Trust	
Fund	Dept	Or Unit	Sub Object	Account	Dollars
263	19	067K	4380	T067	\$85,000.00

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

Funding Source Tax Dollars \_\_\_\_\_  
State Aid \_\_\_\_\_

**\$85,000.00** Federal Aid \$85,000.00 – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
(must match resolution)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

S:\ADMINISTRATION\CONTRACTS\Completed Contracts\CDBG\C6710T16\Resolution.doc

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