

14372

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 an Equal Housing Opportunity 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. The grant will be used to fund an Equal Housing Opportunity 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 established to address two critical needs for low-income Westchester County residents. WRO focuses on investigating cases of discrimination in housing, and providing fair housing education to all first time homebuyers. WRO will also provide a streamlined and more efficient intake process for clients that believe they have experienced housing or lending discrimination, 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. WRO has provided excellent services to Westchester residents which have resulted in improved housing ownership/rental and counseling opportunities in the County. It is anticipated that approximately 100 persons will receive fair housing information and a minimum of 12 workshops will be conducted that will offer fair housing education to real estate professionals, governmental housing staff, non-profits, community and faith based groups in order to develop an understanding of fair housing rights and the effect of discrimination in the community. It is anticipated that 400 persons will attend these workshops. Last grant period WRO exceeded all of their goals. We anticipate WRO will meet or exceed their goals for this new contract period.

This agreement will serve the public purpose of reducing discrimination in housing by disseminating information and providing counseling on fair housing laws. The agreement also exhibits fiscal responsibility by securing funds from non-taxpayer resources.

The goal and objective of this agreement is to provide investigative services to minorities on cases of discrimination in housing and provide mediation when necessary (at least 75% of all other clients served will be low/moderate income persons). WRO will also train real estate professionals on fair housing laws. The program will be monitored by the Department of Planning staff, who will review all payment requests to ensure all contractual requirements are met. WRO will submit monthly reports detailing activities and accomplishments during the month.

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 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 an Equal Housing Opportunity Program in the Westchester Urban County Consortium communities to promote Fair Housing in Westchester, 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	\$79,000.00

Budget Funding Year(s) FY 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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APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 11-18-2010 - JOHANNY VIEIRA, SECRETARY