

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

17596

Date: March 2, 2011

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire, Commissioner
Department of Social Services

Subject: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill, Inc. (C.H.O.P.) to operate a shelter for up to nineteen (19) homeless single males and females and an overnight warming site/drop-in center for up to seven (7) homeless single males/ females at a facility known as Jan Peek House located at 200 N. Water Street, Peekskill, New York for the period February 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012 for an amount not to exceed \$747,708 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

The County of Westchester requests authorization to enter into an agreement with Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill, Inc. (C.H.O.P.) to operate a shelter for up to nineteen (19) homeless single males and females and an overnight warming site/drop-in center for up to seven (7) homeless single males/ females at a facility known as Jan Peek House located at 200 N. Water Street, Peekskill, New York for the period February 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012 for an amount not to exceed \$747,708 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. It is to be noted that there has been an addition to the shelter program provided pursuant to the proposed agreement by way of an overnight warming site/drop-in center. The increase in the amount requested for the 2011-2012 contract is to cover the added costs associated with funding this warming center.

The shelter will continue to 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. In addition, the shelter will be utilized to provide a warm place for those individuals who would otherwise be exposed to inclement weather conditions.

The **public purpose** of the proposed agreement is to improve the quality of life of the homeless population in the County by enabling them to achieve a successful transition from welfare to self-sufficiency and to economic independence while providing them with shelter and supportive services. Further, the overnight warming center ensures the health and safety of the targeted population who would otherwise be sleeping on the streets.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are in compliance with the NYS laws and regulations requiring the provision of emergency housing for the needy. The proposed agreement includes:

- to provide shelter to homeless individuals
- to assist individuals in finding permanent housing and employment
- to provide supportive services, casework services and assistance to support the 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.**

- The population served routinely suffers from various chronic impediments such as substance and/or alcohol abuse, mental illness, chronic unemployment, poor work history/inability to maintain a job, etc., and many are burdened with multiple barriers to permanent housing which have resulted in their current homeless status.
- Through this contract, customers who are eligible to receive these emergency housing services are provided direct supportive services and linkages to programs to address their needs.
- Housing the targeted population will reduce the risk of them becoming victims of crime and general health-related issues that result from not having appropriate shelter.
- Without this service, these customers would literally be sleeping on the streets. This program gives them a place to temporarily stay, while looking for a permanent solution to their homelessness.

These goals and objectives are **in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they are aimed at reducing the number of people on public assistance which will in turn result in reducing the associated costs. This population will no longer be a burden to the County or taxpayers once they become employed and economically independent.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored through performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The tracking and monitoring include the submission of monthly statistics and quarterly reports as well as through direct contact with the D.S.S. staff in order to swiftly address any impediments to the program's success.

The Department is able to report that the vendor's Performance Measurement Indicators reflect that the program met its goal of housing eligible customers referred by the Department. The facility accepted 100% of appropriate referrals during the previous contract period. Direct services were provided, as well as linkages to off-site services such as mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, employment services and housing searches. This program effectively provided shelter and support services for 67 single homeless men and women. As of 1/31/11, the following outcomes were achieved by this program:

- Average Length of Stay for all customers: 82 days
- 21 or 31% of the individuals secured permanent housing
- 14 or 21% of the individuals secured transitional housing

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) (xiv).

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill, Inc. (C.H.O.P.) for the above said purpose.

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

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill, Inc. (C.H.O.P.) to operate a shelter for up to nineteen (19) homeless single males and females and an overnight warming site/drop-in center for up to seven (7) homeless single males/ females at a facility known as Jan Peek House located at 200 N. Water Street, Peekskill, New York for the period February 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012 for an amount not to exceed \$747,708 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation; 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.

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2011	101	22	8900	5860	_____	\$685,399
2012	101	22	8900	5860	_____	\$ 62,309

Budget Funding Year(s): 2011- 2012

Start Date: 02/01/11

End Date: 01/31/12

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 70 %

State Aid: 30 %

Federal Aid: _____

Other: _____

\$ 747,708

(must match resolution)