

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

22022

**Date:** September 30, 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 Volunteers of America – Greater New York, Inc. to operate a Special Category Client Monitoring Program to monitor and track the movements of all Level III and Level II sexual offenders who have victimized a child less than 16 years of age and residing at the Westchester County Department of Social Services' Grasslands shelter facility for the period October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 for a total amount not to exceed \$886,820 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

The County of Westchester requests authorization to enter into an agreement with Volunteers of America – Greater New York, Inc., (“VOA”) to operate a Special Category Client Monitoring Program to monitor and track the movements of all Level III and Level II sexual offenders who have victimized a child less than 16 years of age and residing in the Westchester County Department of Social Services' Grasslands Shelter facility for the period October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 for a total amount not to exceed \$886,820 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. There has been no change in the amount requested for the 2011-2012 proposed agreement.

The **public purpose** of the program is to assist the County of Westchester in ensuring the safety and well being of children by monitoring and tracking the movements of these offenders through a program designed under this agreement.

The **goals and objectives** of the Special Category Client Monitoring Program are to monitor and track the movements of all Level III and Level II sexual offenders who have victimized a child less than 16 years of age and residing in any Westchester County Department of Social Services' shelter facility. This program provides counseling, case management, education, supportive therapy and security to the Level III and Level II sexual offenders whose movements are tracked and monitored.

The goals and objectives of this program are in **the best interests of the County in terms fiscal responsibility as well as public health and safety** as the program also provides supportive services including counseling, therapy, education, and assistance to find employment and thus help them to become economically independent and improve their behavior and quality of life. The program is aimed at creating a safe environment for children in the County. Further, when an incident occurs with a “special category client”, Senior Management reviews the incident and determines what

procedures should be implemented to make the program more effective in achieving the program goals.

The following procedures have been implemented this fiscal year:

1. An hourly headcount is currently being conducted and logged to better ensure the whereabouts of all "special category clients".
2. Any client not on probation or parole who has expressed a desire to leave the program, or a client who knows he is going to be cited for violating probation or parole conditions, will receive one-on-one monitoring supervision until the situation is resolved.
3. "Special category clients" are moved to (three) rooms whereby they cannot exit the facility through the dorm windows, and where the monitors have better visibility to ensure proper monitoring.

Volunteers of America further demonstrates its commitment to public safety by holding the following meetings:

1. A monthly Community Advisory Board meeting is held at Grasslands with all senior managers attending. Also in attendance are the Westchester County Police, representatives from DSS, a number of community individuals and community elected representatives. One of the purposes of this meeting is to allow the community an opportunity to discuss any of their concerns they may have with our "special category clients" and to ensure that the Community Board are doing everything in their power to monitor the "special category clients".
2. Senior management meets monthly with the Chief Inspector for the Westchester County Police along with their contracted security company ("SSC") that provides the security at Grasslands. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss any security concerns that they may have, and determine if any changes need to occur with current procedures to better ensure the safety of the clients, staff, and the community.
3. The senior management team also meets every morning at 9:30 a.m., to discuss all incidents from the previous day, review incidents for trends, and discuss critical information from each department.

The goals and objectives will be monitored through the electronic submission of quarterly reports approved by the Budget Office as well as through direct contact with the Department in order to quickly address problems and assure adherence to the intents outlined in the contract. The Department uses the Performance Measurement Indicators approved by the County Budget Office to evaluate the performance of the venter and the effectiveness of the program.

The program is designed to supervise the clients in the program to ensure 100% compliance with the program rules and regulations, and to place a client back into the community as a part of their mutually agreed upon treatment plan. **Based upon Performance Measurement Indicators**, the Department is able to report that as of October 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011, the program served 62 program participants, of which 19 clients were placed into independent living situations. This number is especially impressive due to the difficulty of placing this population. Legal stipulations require that sex offenders are not housed near schools, or playgrounds. The other difficulty is the negative reactions associated with this crime which makes it difficult to find an individual willing to rent to a sex offender.

Additionally, as of October 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011, 84% of our clients had no new arrests while in our program, and 100% of the clients attended all programs as prescribed in their treatment plan. Program attendance is a critical component of the program. Clients attend day treatment programs and group therapy sessions conducted by experts in the sex offender field. They also group valuable psychotherapeutic treatment to all “special category clients”.

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

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with Volunteers of America-Greater New York, Inc for the purpose stated above.

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

KMM/DI/ml  
Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 10/27/2011 JONATHAN VIEIRA SECRETARY

## RESOLUTION

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Volunteers of America – Greater New York, Inc. to operate a Special Category Client Monitoring Program to monitor and track the movements of all Level III and Level II sexual offenders who have victimized a child less than 16 years of age and residing at the Grasslands shelter facility for the period October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 for a total amount not to exceed \$886,820 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Agreement 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.

Account to be  
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2011	101	22	8900	5860	-----	\$221,705
2012	101	22	8900	5860	-----	\$665,115

Budget Funding Year(s) 2011-2012  
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 10/1/11

End Date: 9/30/12

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 71 %

State Aid: 29%

\$886,820  
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_