

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**27052**

**DATE:** May 15, 2012

**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 My Sisters' Place, Inc. to operate a special needs shelter at a facility known as **My Sisters' Place I** for women and their minor children who are victims of domestic violence and residing in the County of Westchester for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 for an amount not to exceed \$423,333 to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$104.87 pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

The County of Westchester requests authorization to enter into an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. to operate a special needs shelter at a facility known as **My Sisters' Place I** for women and their minor children who are victims of domestic violence and residing in the County of Westchester for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 for an amount not to exceed \$423,333 to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$104.87 pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The County proposes to enter into this agreement to provide emergency shelter placements for victims of domestic violence. The Domestic Violence State Aid Rate (DVSAR) that has been approved by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 is currently \$104.87 per person per day. This rate is subject to modification by the State prior to June 30, 2013. The County is therefore requesting authorization to adjust the current per-diem rate to conform to the revised DVSAR when it is issued by the State.

The services to be provided pursuant to the proposed agreement serve a **public purpose** by assisting the County to provide immediate emergency shelter to eligible victims of domestic violence and their minor children.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement are:

- 1) to provide a safe environment to women and their minor children experiencing domestic violence
- 2) to provide on-site counseling services and support services
- 3) to offer 24 hour hotline services seven days a week

- 4) to increase responsiveness of the criminal justice system to the needs of battered women and their minor children by offering legal services, advocacy and accompaniment services for Court hearings and visits to the District Attorney's Office.

The proposed agreement will also provide domestic violence services for undocumented aliens who are victims of domestic violence and residing in the County of Westchester.

The goals and objectives of this program are in **the best interests of the County in terms of public health and public safety** as they are aimed at ensuring and enhancing the health and safety of the targeted population. The 24-hour hotline allows Westchester County residents to receive help in a crisis situation with problems of domestic violence by offering options and resources to maximize safety. The County enhances public safety by providing a safe haven in the form of emergency housing to victims of domestic violence and their minor children. In the event that a resident's length of stay exceeds the allowable 135 days, this program provides additional funding to allow said resident to remain in a safe haven until appropriate housing is arranged.

The goals and objectives are in the County's **best interests in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they help to reduce costs associated with responding to emergency calls for help and protection of these victims.

The **goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored** using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The contractor is required to submit to the Department monthly and quarterly statistical reports on all activities related to the program.

The **Department is able to report that the vendor's Performance Measurement Indicators** reflect that the aforesaid program has met its goal of housing eligible customers referred by the Department. My Sisters' Place effectively provided shelter and supportive services for an average of 16 women and children each month in 2011. In 2011, the average length of stay for Westchester County residents was 67 days. During the same period, one hundred percent (100%) of the families who received services and housing through My Sisters' Place remained free of being re-abused while residing at the shelter.

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) (xiv) as the population served under this agreement are people who are in need or who are on public assistance.

Therefore, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

## 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 My Sisters' Place, Inc. to operate a special needs shelter at a facility known as **My Sisters' Place I** for women and their minor children who are victims of domestic violence and residing in the County of Westchester for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 for an amount not to exceed \$423,333 to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$104.87 pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the contract per diem rate of \$104.87 is subject to change as may be prescribed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized to amend the aforementioned agreement subsequent to execution of the same in order to adjust the per diem rate to conform to the anticipated future modification of the said rate by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services at such time as the County is notified by the State of such modification of the rate provided that such rate does not exceed the amount authorized herein; 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.

Account to be  
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2012	101	22	8900	5850	-----	\$211,667
2013	101	22	8900	5850	-----	\$211,666

Budget Funding Year(s): 2012-2013    Start Date: 7/1/12    End Date: 6/30/13  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 1%  
State Aid: 0%  
Federal Aid: 99%  
Other:

**\$423,333**

(must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 06/21/2012 - JOMERY VIERA, SECRETARY