

38648

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

DATE: February 27, 2014

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into an agreement with Darlene Reda, pursuant to which Ms. Reda will serve as Director of the Family Justice Center, for a term commencing March 1, 2014 and continuing through November 30, 2016, for an amount not-to-exceed \$240,427.

By a resolution approved on November 7, 2013, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester (the "County") to enter into a grant agreement with the United States Department of Justice, acting by and through its Office on Violence Against Women, ("OVW") pursuant to which the County would accept a continuation grant awarded to it by OVW under OVW's Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program (the "Grant") in the amount of Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000.00), for the period December 1, 2013 through November 30, 2016, in order to operate, expand, and strengthen the Westchester Family Justice Center ("FJC"), as well as expand training to law enforcement, probation personnel, judges, and prosecutors (the "Grant Agreement"). The Grant Agreement was subsequently executed.

As an independent contractor working as a consultant to the County, I served as the most recent Director of the FJC, from April 23, 2012 through July 7, 2013, at which time I was appointed Director of the Office for Women.

Recently, the County, acting by and through its Office for Women, solicited qualifications from qualified individuals for a contract for professional services to serve as Director of the FJC. From the responses received, five (5) candidates were determined to be qualified and were interviewed as part of the County's evaluation. Based on the responses and the interviews, Darlene Reda was determined to be best qualified respondent to the solicitation of qualifications. Ms. Reda has extensive legal experience, some of which has included domestic violence related cases. Her additional experience with grant implementation and fundraising would be vital for long-term sustainability of the FJC.

Accordingly, authority is now respectfully requested from your Honorable Board for the County to use a portion of the funds from the Grant and enter into an agreement with Darlene Reda, pursuant to which Ms. Reda will serve as Director of the FJC, for a term commencing March 1, 2014 and continuing through November 30, 2016, for an amount not-to-exceed Two Hundred Forty Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$240,427.00), payable monthly, pursuant to an approved budget.

The proposed agreement will serve a public purpose by providing a director to supervise the daily operations of the FJC, which enhances the safety and independence of victims of abuse. If victims are empowered at the FJC to learn how to develop and maintain their own safety they are not as likely to return to dependence on their abusers, thereby reducing public safety costs and medical costs. If they are helped by the FJC to become independent and self-sufficient they are not as likely to be dependent on public assistance.

The goal and objective of the proposed agreement is to provide a director for the FJC and thereby ensure the overall sustainability of the FJC and ensure that the FJC provides services to victims.

The goal and objective of the proposed agreement is in the best interests of the County in terms of the public health, safety and general welfare, as providing a director the FJC and thereby ensuring the overall sustainability of the FJC and ensuring that the FJC provides services will ultimately enhance the safety and independence of victims of abuse.

The goal and objective of the proposed agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women by means of quarterly reports and ongoing communication with Ms. Reda.

The procurement of the proposed agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xi) thereof, which exempts "any procurement made pursuant to procurement procedures provided for under any other federal or state law applicable to such procurement," as the County complied with the procedures specified by OVW for the Grant.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Director of the Office for Women, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County") is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Darlene Reda, pursuant to which Ms. Reda will serve as Director of the Family Justice Center ("FJC"), for a term commencing March 1, 2014 and continuing through November 30, 2016, for an amount not-to-exceed Two Hundred Forty Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$240,427.00), payable monthly, pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to execute any and all documents and take any actions necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be charged/credited:

FUND	DEPT	Major Program, Program & Phase, Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars	Funding Year(s)
263	11	988N	4380	T988	\$65,977	2014
263	11	988N	4380	T988	\$87,225	2015
263	11	988N	4380	T988	\$87,225	2016

***\$2,226 per year is estimated for Travel expenses.**

Budget Funding Year(s) 2014-2016 **Start Date:** 3/1/2014 **End Date:** 11/30/2016
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars _____
 State Aid _____
 Federal Aid \$240,427

\$240,427
 (must match resolution)