

38952

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

DATE: April 2, 2014

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into six (6) separate agreements, each of which will be funded by a portion of a grant, will be for a term commencing December 1, 2013 and continuing through November 30, 2016, and pursuant to which each party will provide services for the Westchester County Family Justice Center, as follows:

- 1.) Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., for an amount not-to-exceed \$101,700.00;
- 2.) Pace University, for an amount not-to-exceed \$118,500.00;
- 3.) My Sisters' Place, Inc., for an amount not-to-exceed \$37,100.00;
- 4.) Hope's Door, Inc., for an amount not-to-exceed \$98,700.00;
- 5.) Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, for an amount not-to-exceed \$67,400.00; and
- 6.) The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale, for an amount not-to-exceed \$8,000.00.

By a resolution approved on November 7, 2013, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (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 \$900,000.00, in order to operate, expand, and strengthen the Westchester County Family Justice Center ("FJC"), as well as expand training to law enforcement, probation personnel, judges, and prosecutors, for the period December 1, 2013 through November 30, 2016 (the "Grant Agreement"). The Grant Agreement was subsequently executed.

As part of the County's application to OVW for the Grant, the County submitted a 'Memorandum of Understanding' ("MOU"), in accordance with OVW's application guidelines. The MOU specified the "partners" with whom the County would work in operating, expanding, and strengthening the FJC, and expanding training to law enforcement, probation personnel, judges, and prosecutors. The MOU included the six (6) parties specified above.

Accordingly, the County respectfully requests authority from your Honorable Board to enter into six (6) separate agreements, each of which will use a portion of the funds from the Grant; will be for a term commencing December 1, 2013 and continuing through November 30, 2016; and pursuant to which each party will provide services for the Westchester County Family Justice Center ("FJC"), as follows:

- 1.) An agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. ("WestCOP"), pursuant to which it will provide intake, crisis intervention, safety planning, emergency shelter placement and case management for victims entering the FJC, for an amount not-to-exceed \$101,700.00, pursuant to an approved budget;
- 2.) An agreement with Pace University, acting by and through its Women's Justice Center, ("PWJC") pursuant to which it will provide civil legal services for victims entering the FJC as well as conduct trainings for police, prosecutors, the judiciary, advocates and service providers, for an amount not-to-exceed \$118,500.00, pursuant to an approved budget;
- 3.) An agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc., ("MSP") pursuant to which it will provide victims entering the FJC with immediate crisis intervention, safety planning, supportive counseling and advocacy and assess the need for, and make referrals to, shelter, legal services, ongoing counseling, self-sufficiency support services, and other non-residential services, for an amount not-to-exceed \$37,100.00, pursuant to an approved budget;
- 4.) An agreement with Hope's Door, Inc. ("HD"), pursuant to which it will provide victims entering the FJC with crisis intervention, counseling, safety planning, advocacy, emergency shelter placement and referrals, for an amount not-to-exceed \$98,700.00, pursuant to an approved budget;
- 5.) An agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley ("LSHV"), pursuant to which it will provide in-depth screening to determine civil legal needs of victims and their children entering the FJC, follow-up investigations, and advise victims of legal options for domestic violence related issues, for an amount not-to-exceed \$67,400.00, pursuant to an approved budget; and
- 6.) An agreement with The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale ("HHAR"), pursuant to which it will participate in FJC trainings, specializing in domestic violence and the older woman, the link between domestic violence and elder abuse, and elder financial abuse, for an amount not-to-exceed \$8,000.00, pursuant to an approved budget

The proposed agreements will serve a public purpose by enhancing the safety and independence of victims of abuse. If victims are empowered 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 to empower themselves to be independent and self-sufficient, they are not as likely to be dependent on public assistance.

The goal and objective of the proposed agreements is to provide services for the FJC, which provides victims of abuse with centralized support services and legal services, eliminating the need for victims to go various locations for services for themselves and their children.

The goal and objective of the proposed agreements is in the best interests of the County in terms of the public health, safety and general welfare, as it will help enhance the safety of victims of abuse. Victims are safer getting help in one secure location at the FJC, and they

benefit from the expertise of a multi-disciplined team, a uniform professional approach and shared policy of confidentiality and information sharing. Through the FJC, victims are able to concurrently meet their civil and criminal needs in one center, which maintains a firewall to ensure confidentiality of information, which ultimately helps guarantee their safety.

The goal and objective of the proposed agreements will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women by means of quarterly reports and ongoing communication with WestCOP, PWJC, MSP, HD, LSHV and HHAR.

The procurement of the proposed agreements 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, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") is hereby authorized to enter into six (6) separate agreements, each of which will be for a term commencing December 1, 2013 and continuing through November 30, 2016, and pursuant to which each party will provide services for the Westchester County Family Justice Center ("FJC"), as follows:

- 1.) An agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., pursuant to which it will provide intake, crisis intervention, safety planning, emergency shelter placement and case management for victims entering the FJC, for an amount not-to-exceed \$101,700.00, pursuant to an approved budget;
- 2.) An agreement with Pace University, acting by and through its Women's Justice Center, pursuant to which it will provide civil legal services for victims entering the FJC as well as conduct trainings for police, prosecutors, the judiciary, advocates and service providers, for an amount not-to-exceed \$118,500.00, pursuant to an approved budget;
- 3.) An agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc., pursuant to which it will provide victims entering the FJC with immediate crisis intervention, safety planning, supportive counseling and advocacy and assess the need for, and make referrals to, shelter, legal services, ongoing counseling, self-sufficiency support services, and other non-residential services, for an amount not-to-exceed \$37,100.00, pursuant to an approved budget;
- 4.) An agreement with Hope's Door, Inc., pursuant to which it will provide victims entering the FJC with crisis intervention, counseling, safety planning, advocacy, emergency shelter placement and referrals, for an amount not-to-exceed \$98,700.00, pursuant to an approved budget;
- 5.) An agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, pursuant to which it will provide in-depth screening to determine civil legal needs of victims and their children entering the FJC, follow-up investigations, and advise victims of legal options for domestic violence related issues, for an amount not-to-exceed \$67,400.00, pursuant to an approved budget; and
- 6.) An agreement with The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale, pursuant to which it will participate in FJC trainings, specializing in domestic violence and the older woman, the link between domestic violence and elder abuse, and elder financial abuse, for an amount not-to-exceed \$8,000.00, pursuant to an approved budget

; and be it further

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

\$101,700.00 WestCOP
 \$118,500.00 PWJC
 \$37,100.00 MSP
 \$98,700.00 HD
 \$67,400.00 LSHV
\$8,000.00 HHAR
\$431,400.00 Total

Account to be charged/credited:

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase, Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Dollars	Funding Year(s)
263	39	103L	4380	\$70,484	2013-2014
263	11	988N	4380	\$360,916	2014-2016

Budget Funding Year(s) 2013-2016 **Start Date:** 12/1/2013 **End Date:** 11/30/2016
 (must match resolution)

\$431,400
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars _____
 State Aid _____
 Federal Aid \$431,400
 Other _____