

39112

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women
Hon. Michael B. Kaplowitz, Chairman
Westchester County Board of Legislators

DATE: March 18, 2014

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into an agreement with Pace University, acting by and through the Women's Justice Center of Pace University School of Law, to provide civil legal services for low-income victims of domestic violence in New Rochelle, for the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 in an amount not-to-exceed \$60,000

The attached Resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with Pace University, acting by and through the Women's Justice Center of Pace University School of Law ("Pace"), pursuant to which Pace will provide civil legal services for low-income victims of domestic violence who reside in New Rochelle or fall within the catchment area served by the New Rochelle Family Court, for a term commencing January 1, 2014 and continuing through December 31, 2014, for an amount not-to-exceed Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00), payable quarterly, pursuant to an approved budget.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by enhancing the safety and independence of victims of domestic 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. By supplying legal representation in family court for victims who cannot afford representation, Pace will assist in securing safety for victims and their children and, as a result, help them avoid dependency on public assistance.

Pace has successfully provided similar legal services through the Family Court Legal Program located in the White Plains and Yonkers Family Courts. It is now seeking to expand those services to victims in New Rochelle.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are for Pace to provide civil legal services for low-income victims of domestic violence, including legal information, referrals, advice and counsel, brief services, advocacy, negotiation, full representation and appeals.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women, which will be responsible for monitoring Pace's performance by means of site visits, as well as quarterly statistics and narratives. The effectiveness of this program will be determined by the outcomes of closed cases.

The procurement of the proposed Agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xiv) thereof, which exempts contracts with not-for-profit organizations for the purposes of providing aid, care and support to persons in need of public assistance.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Director of the Office for Women and the Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with Pace University, acting by and through the Women's Justice Center of Pace University School of Law ("Pace"), pursuant to which Pace will provide civil legal services for low-income victims of domestic violence who reside in New Rochelle or fall within the catchment area served by the New Rochelle Family Court, for a term commencing January 1, 2014 and continuing through December 31, 2014, for an amount not-to-exceed Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00), payable quarterly, pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is subject to County appropriations; 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 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)
101	52	2508	5100	N/A	\$60,000	2014

Budget Funding Year(s) 2014 **Start Date:** 1/1/2014 **End Date:** 12/31/2014
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars \$60,000
 State Aid _____
 Federal Aid _____
 Other _____

\$60,000
 (must match resolution)