

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

Philippe Gille  
First Deputy Commissioner

**40174**

**Date:** May 8, 2014

**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 shelter for up to nineteen (19) homeless medically frail men and women at a facility known as the Valhalla Residence located at Sunshine Cottage Road on the Valhalla Campus for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$697,622 to be paid monthly 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 shelter for up to nineteen (19) homeless medically frail men and women at a facility known as the Valhalla Residence located at Sunshine Cottage Road on the Valhalla Campus for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$697,622 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The services to be provided pursuant to the proposed agreement serve a **public purpose** by assisting the County in providing immediate emergency shelter to eligible homeless medically frail men and women.

Valhalla Residence will provide 24-hour supervision, meals, counseling as well as supportive services including assistance in finding permanent housing. The case manager will provide casework services including linkage to medical and mental health providers. These services are aimed at improving the quality of life of the homeless population in the County.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement are to provide shelter and supportive services to medically frail men and women. The supportive services include helping medically frail men and women to find permanent housing and employment to support their transition from welfare to economic independence. By providing shelter to this vulnerable population, the risk of them becoming victims of crime and developing more severe health related issues is lessened. Furthermore, eligible homeless individuals will receive direct support services, linkages to programs to address their medical and mental health needs, weekly case management sessions and

employment referrals. Homeless individuals will have access to housing, food, medical, counseling and other supportive services until permanent housing is secured.

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 the health and safety of the targeted population.

The goals and objectives are in the County's **best interests in terms of fiscal responsibility** because, through the services of this program the clients will be able to transition into independent living and consequently, the need for these clients to be placed into costly long-term medical and/or psychiatric institutions is minimized.

**The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored** through performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The tracking and monitoring include the submission of monthly statistics and quarterly reports as well as direct contact with the Department staff in order to swiftly address any impediments to the program's successes.

The Department is able to report that the Vendor's Performance Measurement Indicators reflect that the housing program operated by Volunteers of America – Greater New York, Inc. met its goal of housing eligible customers referred by the Department. During the contract term July 2013 through March 2014, contract capacity was 94% and the vendor reported provision of shelter and supportive services to 56 medically frail adults. Performance outcomes are as follows:

- 8 customers secured permanent housing
- 6 customers secured transitional housing
- Average Length of Stay for all customers: 154 days

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) (xiv) as this contract is with a not-for-profit organization for the purpose of providing aid, care and support to persons who are in need of public assistance.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with Volunteers of America – Greater New York, 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 Volunteers of America – Greater New York, Inc. to operate a shelter for up to nineteen (19) homeless medically frail men and women at a facility known as Valhalla Residence located at Sunshine Cottage Road on the Valhalla Campus for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$697,622 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
2014	101	22	8900	5860	-----	\$348,811
2015	101	22	8900	5860	-----	\$348,811

Budget Funding Year(s) 2014-2015  
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 7/1/14

End Date: 6/30/15

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 71%

State Aid: 29%

\$697,622  
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid:

Other: