

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive



Michael B. Kaplowitz
Chairman

41357

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

Hon. Michael B. Kaplowitz, Chairman
Westchester County Board of Legislators

DATE: July 22, 2014

SUBJECT: Authority to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy an agreement with Hispanic Resource Center of Larchmont/Mamaroneck, Inc. to provide culturally competent support services to victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse, for a term commencing January 1, 2014 and continuing through December 31, 2014, for an amount not-to-exceed \$10,000.

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 exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy an agreement (the "Agreement") with Hispanic Resource Center of Larchmont/Mamaroneck, Inc. ("HRC") pursuant to which HRC will provide culturally competent support services to victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse, for a term commencing January 1, 2014 and continuing through December 31, 2014, for an amount not-to-exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), payable quarterly, pursuant to an approved budget.

Since its establishment in 1998, HRC has become one of the lead community-based organizations in Westchester targeting new immigrant families. As Spanish-speaking victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse may face additional cultural barriers to services, HRC has provided support services to help address the unmet needs of this underserved population.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by enhancing the safety and independence of victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. If victims/survivors 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 become independent and self-sufficient they are not as likely to be dependent on public assistance.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are for HRC to provide victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse with support services including, but not limited to, crisis intervention and advocacy/case management, a support group, individual counseling, and information and referral.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women, which will be responsible for monitoring HRC's performance by means of quarterly statistics and narratives.

Under the Westchester County Procurement Policy Section 3(a)(xxi), your Honorable Board may determine "by resolution passed prior to commencing procurement that compliance with the Procurement Policy would not be in the best interests of the County." Due to the fact that HRC has the necessary experience and expertise to provide these vital support services to victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner, and for the reasons set forth above, it is requested that your Honorable Board make the determination that it is in the best interests of the County to exempt from the application of the procedural requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy the proposed Agreement with HRC.

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 pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, it is hereby determined that application of the procedural requirements contained therein, including the necessity of soliciting written price quotations, is neither cost effective nor expedient, and accordingly, not in the best interests of the County in connection with the procurement of an agreement with Hispanic Resource Center of Larchmont/Mamaroneck, Inc. pursuant to which Hispanic Resource Center of Larchmont/Mamaroneck, Inc. will provide culturally competent support services to victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse.