

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

43199

Date: December 1, 2014

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner of Social Services

Edward Buroughs  
Commissioner, Department of Planning

Re: **Authority for the County to enter into agreements with The Preservation Company, Inc., Congregations Linked in Urban Strategy to Effect Renewal, Inc., Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. and Catholic Charities Community Services to provide financial eviction prevention services for Department of Social Services Customers, for the term November 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016 in the aggregate amount not to exceed \$606,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations.**

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On August 26, 2014, the Westchester County Department of Social Services (“Department”) issued a Request for Proposals for Eviction Prevention Services (the “RFP”). The County’s RFP stated that it intended to award a total of \$200,000 for this grant which may result in one or more contracts for eviction prevention, within the total budget. The Department received four proposals, and after evaluation by a panel of two Department staff, the Department has determined that each of the proposers was qualified and each of the proposals met the evaluation criteria contained in the RFP and all the proposers were determined to be cost effective and advantageous to the Department.

It is therefore recommended that your Honorable Board authorize the County of Westchester to enter into agreements with The Preservation Company Inc., Congregations Linked in Urban Strategy to Effect Renewal, Inc., Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. and Catholic Charities Community Services to provide financial assistance in the form of rent and/or financial assistance for the prevention of eviction or utility shut-off for applicants referred by either the Department or other community resources that will prevent the incidence of homelessness to low income households residing in Westchester County for the term November 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016 in the aggregate amount

not to exceed \$606,000 (the “Agreements”), to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations. The individual contracts will be divided into annual amounts follows:

<b>Provider</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>The Preservation Company</b>	<b>\$30,625</b>	<b>\$32,125</b>	<b>\$30,625</b>	<b>\$93,375</b>
<b>CLUSTER</b>	<b>\$63,125</b>	<b>\$64,625</b>	<b>\$63,125</b>	<b>\$190,875</b>
<b>Westchester Residential Opportunities</b>	<b>\$53,125</b>	<b>\$54,625</b>	<b>\$53,125</b>	<b>\$160,875</b>
<b>Catholic Charities</b>	<b>\$53,125</b>	<b>\$54,625</b>	<b>\$53,125</b>	<b>\$160,875</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$206,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$606,000</b>

The proposed Agreements will provide financial assistance in the form of rent and/or financial assistance for the prevention of eviction or utility shut-off for applicants referred by either the Department or other community resources that will prevent the incidence of homelessness to low income households residing in Westchester County. The Agreements will implement the Westchester County Eviction Prevention Program by providing financial assistance to prevent the incidence of homelessness, including :

- 1) Short-term subsidies to defray rent for families that have received eviction notices.
- 2) Utility arrears for households that have received a service termination notice, where such service termination will cause the family to be evicted or temporarily displaced from their residence.
- 3) Financial assistance to secure permanent housing in the form of first month’s rent, security deposits and/or moving expenses.

The Agreements will also require that efforts will be made to prevent homelessness such as financial assistance to families who have received an eviction notice or notice of termination of utility services, where such families have been determined to be eligible.

Please note that this program was administered by the Department of Planning in the past. Beginning on November 1, 2014, the program will be administered by the Department of Social Services.

The Agreements will serve the public purpose of stabilizing families who are at risk of eviction. This in turn has the goal of preventing homelessness and thereby saving taxpayer funds.

A resolution is annexed hereto, which I recommend for your favorable consideration.

KMM/DI  
Attachment

## RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services and the Commissioner of the Department of Planning, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into the following agreements to provide eviction prevention services for the term November 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016 in the aggregate not to exceed amount of \$606,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget:

Provider	2014	2015	2016	Total
The Preservation Company	\$30,625	\$32,125	\$30,625	\$93,375
<b>CLUSTER</b>	<b>\$63,125</b>	<b>\$64,625</b>	<b>\$63,125</b>	<b>\$190,875</b>
Westchester Residential Opportunities	\$53,125	\$54,625	\$53,125	\$160,875
Catholic Charities	\$53,125	\$54,625	\$53,125	\$160,875
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$206,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$606,000</b>

; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that these contracts are subject to County appropriations; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that these Agreements are also subject to further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget (“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 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 impact of any such budget(s) on County finances. After such analysis, the County shall retain the right to either terminate these Agreements, 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 the agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

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

Account to be Charged/credited

2014

2015

2016

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	19	0100	4380	N/A	\$200,000
101	19	0100	4380	N/A	\$206,000
101	19	0100	4380	N/A	\$200,000

Budget Funding Year(s) 2014 – 2016 Start Date 11/1/14 End Date 12/31/16  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: \$606,000

State Aid:

\$606,000

Federal Aid:

(must match resolution)

Other:

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/11/2014 - JOMARY WEIRA, SECRETARY