



Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services  
Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

Philippe Gille  
First Deputy Commissioner

**43452**

**DATE:** December 5, 2014

**TO:** Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

**FROM:** Kevin McGuire  
Commissioner, Department of Social Services

Robin Schlaf  
Director, Office for Women

**SUBJECT:** Authority to enter into an agreement with Brooke Walsh in an amount not to exceed \$80,150 for full time consulting services to assist victims of domestic violence in securing safe, temporary shelter and to provide assistance to victims and their household members in linkage to supportive services for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

---

The attached Resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the "County") to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with Brooke Walsh in an amount not to exceed \$80,150 for consulting services to assist domestic violence victims to secure safe, temporary shelter and to provide assistance to victims and their households with referrals and linkages to supportive services with the long range goal of client self-sufficiency for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

While numerous supportive service programs are available in Westchester, this initiative concentrates on improving service delivery through education and training, linkage and coordination of services between service providers and victims of domestic violence and their household members.

The amount requested for this agreement represents an increase over that of last year due to an expanded scope of services and a full time work schedule for the vendor. Additional responsibilities for the consultant will include conducting domestic violence assessments and reassessments for waivers from Temporary Assistance requirements if those requirements would place the recipients at further risk or prevent them from escaping the abuse as per the Family Violence Option Act of 1997. In addition, the

consultant will be responsible for determining fiscal responsibility for Westchester County residents at out of county DV shelters in New York State and forwarding temporary assistance applications for these customers to the White Plains Home Unit to establish eligibility.

The public purpose of the proposed agreement is to ensure the immediate health, safety and welfare of the victims of domestic violence in the County of Westchester by providing them with access to safe temporary shelter and linkage to supportive services.

The goals and objectives of this program are to aid victims of domestic violence in securing safe, temporary shelter and to provide assistance to victims and their household members in linkage to supportive services with the long range goal of client self-sufficiency.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and public safety as they are aimed at protecting the health and safety of domestic violence victims. This program provides linkages to mental health providers and other healthcare providers who are vital to the safety and survival of victims of domestic violence.

The goals and objectives are in the County's best interests in terms of fiscal responsibility as the supportive services provided by this program focus on assisting victims to become self-sufficient.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. The consultant is required to submit to the Department quarterly statistical reports on all activities related to the program.

The Department is able to report that the vendor's Performance Measurement Indicators reflect that the program met its goal. The consultant assisted 100% of appropriate referrals during the 2014 contract period. This service effectively provides information and referrals to victims of domestic violence and household members. From January 1, 2014 to date, the following outcomes were achieved by this vendor:

- 201 customers received a service from the vendor
- 117 customers were provided with information and referrals
- 33 customers received assistance with placement moves

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) **(xiv)** as the population served under this program are in need of public assistance by way of temporary housing accommodations and linkage to community based supportive services. This contract is exempt from the application of the Federal Common Grant Rule as the program falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

An appropriate resolution requesting your Honorable Board's approval to enter into the above stated agreement is attached herewith.

# RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services and the Director of the Office for Women, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Brooke Walsh in an amount not to exceed \$80,150 for full time consulting services to assist victims of domestic violence in securing safe, temporary shelter and to provide assistance to victims and their household members in linkage to supportive services for the period (January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 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
2015	101	22	8900	5850	N/A	\$80,150

**Budget Funding Year(s):** 2015      **Start Date:** 1/1/2015      **End Date:** 12/31/2015

(must match resolution)

Funding Source:

\$80,150

(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: 1%

State Aid: 0%

Federal Aid: 99%