

45657

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Honorable Robert P. Astorino
Westchester County Executive

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

Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

DATE: May 1, 2015

SUBJECT: Authority to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy an agreement with Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc. to assist low-income immigrants in applying administrative relief, for a term commencing January 1, 2015 and continuing through December 31, 2015, for an amount not-to-exceed \$20,600

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 Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc. ("WHC") pursuant to which WHC will assist low-income immigrants in applying for administrative relief, for a term commencing January 1, 2015 and continuing through December 31, 2015, for an amount not-to-exceed \$20,600, payable quarterly pursuant to an approved budget.

WHC has been providing services in Westchester for the past 40 years and has extensive experience working with immigrants. In 1986, it was designated as a Qualified Designated Entity by the U.S. Department of Justice under the Reagan Administration's Amnesty Program when it processed thousands of legalization applications for clients. Following the initial registration process, WHC assisted clients in applying for legal permanent residency, and applying for naturalization. WHC has since helped clients obtain lawful status, legal permanent resident status, citizenship and/or work authorizations. As a result, many of WHC's clients have been able to become lawfully employed.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by increasing the stability and self-sufficiency of Latino immigrant men and women in Westchester.

The goal and objective of the proposed Agreement is for WHC to assist 40 low-income immigrants in applying for administrative relief including, but not limited to, Special Immigrant Juveniles Status, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Temporary Protective Status, work authorization renewals, and legal permanent resident status.

The goal and objective of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women.

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 WHC has the necessary experience and expertise to provide these services 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 WHC.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Westchester County Executive, the Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, and the Director of the Office for Women 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 Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc. pursuant to which Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc. will assist low-income immigrants in applying for administrative relief.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 06/04/2015 - JOMARY HEIRAS SECRETARY