

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services
Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

Philippe Gille
First Deputy Commissioner

48823

DATE: November 16, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin McGuire
Commissioner, Department of Social Services

Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into an agreement with Brooke Walsh 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 a term commencing January 1, 2016 and continuing through December 31, 2016, for an amount not to exceed \$80,150, payable monthly pursuant to an approved budget.

The attached Resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, (the "County") to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with Brooke Walsh for full-time 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 a term commencing January 1, 2016 and continuing through December 31, 2016, for an amount not to exceed \$80,150, payable monthly pursuant to an approved budget.

While numerous supportive service programs are available in Westchester, this program 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.

In addition, Ms. Walsh will conduct 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. Ms. Walsh will also be responsible for determining fiscal responsibility for Westchester County residents at out of county domestic violence shelters in New York State and forwarding temporary assistance applications for these customers to the White Plains Home Unit to establish eligibility.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by ensuring 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 the proposed Agreement 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 of the proposed Agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of public health and public safety as the overall goal is to protect 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.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are in the best interests of the County 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 of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored using Performance Measurement Indicator ("PMI") Reports developed by the County. Ms. Walsh will be required to submit to the County quarterly statistical reports on all activities related to the program.

To date during the 2015 contract term, Ms. Walsh's PMI Reports reflect that the program has met its goal, and Ms. Walsh has assisted 100% of appropriate referrals. This service effectively provides information and referrals to victims of domestic violence and household members. From January 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015, the following outcomes were achieved by Ms. Walsh:

- 309 customers received services
- 196 customers were provided with information and referrals
- 75 customers received assistance with placement moves

The proposed Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to 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. The proposed Agreement is exempt from the application of the Federal Common Grant Rule as the program falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is requesting authority to enter into an agreement with Brooke Walsh for the above stated purpose.

An appropriate resolution is annexed herewith for your Honorable Board's approval.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/22/2015 - JOAN COCCIARDI, SECRETARY

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, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, (the "County") is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with Brooke Walsh 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 a term commencing January 1, 2016 and continuing through December 31, 2016 for an amount not to exceed \$80,150, payable monthly pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is subject to County Appropriations; 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 duly authorized designee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to execute any and all documents and take any actions necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be charged/credited:

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase, Or Unit	Sub-Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars	Funding Year(s)
101	22	8900	8910	5850	-	\$80,150	2016

Budget Funding Year(s): 2016 **Start Date:** 1/1/2016 **End Date:** 12/31/2016

(must match resolution)

Funding Source:

Tax Dollars: 1%

State Aid: 0%

Federal Aid: 99%

Other:

\$80,150

(must match resolution)