



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

50336

DATE: December 30, 2015

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin P. McGuire
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into agreements with the Putnam Northern Westchester Board of Cooperative Education Services (“PNW BOCES”) and Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (“WestCOP”), pursuant to which the contractors will operate the YouthBuild program to provide case management, educational and occupational skills training and construction skills training to eligible youth ages 16-24 who reside in the cities of Peekskill, Mount Vernon and Yonkers for the period from October 1, 2015 through January 31, 2019 for a total aggregate amount not to exceed \$840,000.00, comprised of \$210,000 to be allocated to PNW BOCES and \$630,000 to be allocated to WestCOP, to be paid monthly pursuant to approved budgets.

Authority is hereby requested from your Honorable Board for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, Office of Workforce Development (the “Department”), on behalf of the Westchester Putnam Local Workforce Development Board (the “WDB”), to enter into agreements with PNW BOCES and WestCOP, pursuant to which the contractors will operate the YouthBuild program to provide case management, educational and occupational skills training and construction skills training to eligible youth ages 16-24 who reside in the cities of Peekskill, Mount Vernon and Yonkers for the period from October 1, 2015 through January 31, 2019 . In consideration for services rendered, the County shall pay the contractors a total aggregate amount not to exceed \$840,000.00, comprised of \$210,000 to be allocated to PNW BOCES and \$630,000 to be allocated to WestCOP, to be paid monthly pursuant to approved budgets.

The United States Department of Labor has funded the YouthBuild program since September 2006. The YouthBuild program, which is administered by the Employment and Training Administration's Office of Workforce Investment, Division of Youth Services, is a community-based alternative education program that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16-24. Youth learn construction skills while constructing or rehabilitating affordable housing for low-income or homeless families in their own neighborhoods. Youth split their time between the construction site and the classroom, where they earn their GED or high school diploma, learn to be community leaders, and prepare for college and other postsecondary training opportunities. YouthBuild includes significant support systems, such as a mentoring, follow-up education, employment, and personal counseling services; and participation in community service and civic engagement. There are over 220 DOL funded YouthBuild programs in 43 states serving over 6000 youth per year.

It should be noted that the Agreement with PNW BOCES will serve approximately 20 youth in the Peekskill area while the Agreement with WestCOP will serve approximately 60 youth in the cities of Mt Vernon and Yonkers.

The Agreements will serve a public purpose by providing youth in the cities of Peekskill, Mt Vernon and Yonkers with the necessary training to enter the workforce.

The goals and objectives of this program will be to provide Westchester County youth residing in the cities of Peekskill, Mt Vernon and Yonkers with the necessary skills to enter the workforce and be less dependent on government assistance.

The goals and objectives of this program are in the best interests of the County in terms of helping residents youth of Westchester County obtain the necessary training to enter the workforce because employment will lead to independence from government assistance.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored by Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board staff.

The Department has complied with sections 6 and 13 of the Westchester County Procurement Policy. On May 6, 2015, the Department issued an RFP seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide educational, construction and leadership training for eligible youth ages 16-24 and who reside in the cities of Peekskill, Mount Vernon and Yonkers. The RFP was posted on the County and One Stop websites, was advertised in the Journal News and was made available to all WDB partners, contractors, service providers, and community organizations. The following four (4) organizations submitted proposals in response to the RFP in the individual amounts listed:

WestCOP (\$990,000)
PNW BOCES (\$569,250)
Southern Westchester BOCES (\$344,000)
City of Peekskill Youth Bureau (\$458,685.09)

After a careful review of the proposals with reference to the evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP, both WestCOP and PNW BOCES were selected by the review committee based upon the evaluation ratings set forth below and satisfactory past performance.

Proposers	Community To Serve	Rater 1	Rater 2	Rater 3		Average Score
Peekskill Youth Bureau	Peekskill	82	92	96		90
Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES	Peekskill	81	89	89		86
WestCOP	Peekskill, Yonkers & Mt. Vernon	73	83	93		83
Southern Westchester BOCES	Mount Vernon	80	45	33		52

It should be noted that while the Peekskill Youth Bureau scored higher and offered a lower price proposal for service to the Peekskill community than did PNW BOCES, by the time the Department was awarded the funds to run the YouthBuild program, there was instability at the Peekskill Youth Bureau, including ongoing lawsuits and termination of staff, including the agency's executive director. Because of this, we contacted PNW BOCES and commenced negotiations with them. As their score was the next highest, we awarded the contract to them.

Accordingly, I most respectfully recommend the adoption of the annexed Resolution.

KMM/AT/jpg

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 01/28/2016 - LISA MRIJAJ, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, Office of Workforce Development, on behalf of the Westchester Putnam Local Workforce Development Board (“WDB”), is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with the Putnam Northern Westchester Board of Cooperative Education Services (“PNW BOCES”) and Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (“WestCOP”), pursuant to which the contractors will operate the YouthBuild program to provide case management, educational and occupational skills training and construction skills training to eligible youth ages 16-24 who reside in the cities of Peekskill, Mount Vernon and Yonkers for the period from October 1, 2015 through January 31, 2019 for a total aggregate amount not to exceed \$840,000.00, comprised of \$210,000 to be allocated to PNW BOCES and \$630,000 to be allocated to WestCOP, to be paid monthly pursuant to approved budgets (the “Agreements”); and be it further

RESOLVED that the Agreement with PNW BOCES will serve approximately 20 youth in the Peekskill area while the Agreement with WestCOP will serve approximately 60 youth in the cities of Mt Vernon and Yonkers.

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute any documents and take any actions reasonably necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
275	22	392Q	7338	T392	\$840,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2015-2019
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 10-1-2015

End Date: 1-31-2019

Funding Source

\$840,000
(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars:

State Aid:
Federal Aid: 100%

Other