

72922

November 27, 2019

TO: The Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Thomas A. Gleason
Acting Commissioner-Sheriff of Public Safety

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into an agreement with the Student Assistance Services Corporation ("SAS") pursuant to which SAS will help to coordinate the BJA STOP School Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program (aka Project BRIGHT) that will create, present and help to implement school violence prevention and mental health training programs for law enforcement, school based personnel and students to improve their efforts to reduce violent crime for a three (3) year term commencing on October 1, 2019 and continuing through September 30, 2022, in an amount not-to-exceed \$415,000 to be paid in accordance with an approved budget.

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester (the "County") to enter into an agreement with SAS, pursuant to which SAS will help to coordinate the Project BRIGHT program that will create, present and help to implement school violence prevention and mental health training programs for law enforcement, school based personnel and students to improve their efforts to reduce violent crime for a three (3) year term commencing on October 1, 2019 and continuing through September 30, 2022, in an amount not-to-exceed \$415,000 to be paid in accordance with an approved budget and payment schedule (The Agreement).

Since 1985, SAS has provided substance abuse prevention and early intervention services, programming, and training in schools, residential facilities, and communities throughout Westchester County and neighboring areas. SAS has touched the lives of thousands, working with students, parents, teachers, human service professionals, community leaders, health care providers, business people and clergy.

These services will be funded through a grant from the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance ("DOJ").

The goal and objectives of the Agreement are as follows:

Goal: To increase multidisciplinary school threat assessment trainings and mental health first aid trainings in schools throughout Westchester County including participation of private, parochial and charter schools and to assist in the approach and the implementation of the trainings at the schools.

Objective One: Under the direction of the Project Coordinator for Project Bright, “coaches” will be trained to assist the threat assessment teams to bridge the challenge of translating skills and knowledge gained in training into policies and practice in real world situations.

Objective Two: Project Bright allows the trainings to grow in currently underserved areas; specific trainings and coaching opportunities will be provided to private, parochial and charter schools. Using an existing network of community coalitions, all of whom have active groups of teen leaders, the project will help teens become an active part of the school safety equation.

This goal and these objectives are in the best interests of the County because they build on the already successful evidence based CSTAG (Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines) program and the Mental Health Training that exists in Westchester County. The CSTAG and Mental Health trainings show that individuals trained in these programs grow in their knowledge of signs, symptoms and risk factors of mental illnesses and addictions; can identify multiple types of professional and self-help resources for individuals with a mental illness or addiction; increase their confidence in and likelihood to help an individual in distress; show increased mental wellness themselves.

The goal and objectives will be tracked by surveys conducted by the trainers and coaches prior to the trainings and post implementation of programs within the schools.

This Agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to section 3(a)xviii thereof. This Agreement is also exempt from the competitive procurement requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (formerly, the Grants Management Common Rule) as the services are only available from a single source and DOJ has approved the single source designation in response to a written request from the County (See 2 CFR § 200.320 (f)(1)).

Accordingly, I most respectfully recommend your Board’s favorable consideration of the annexed proposed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Acting Commissioner-Sheriff of Public Safety, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Student Assistance Services Corporation (“SAS”) pursuant to which SAS will help to coordinate the BJA STOP School Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program (aka Project BRIGHT) that will create, present and help to implement school safety prevention and mental health training programs for law enforcement, school based personnel and students to improve their efforts to reduce violent crime for a three (3) year term commencing on October 1, 2019 and continuing through September 30, 2022 in an amount not-to-exceed \$415,000.00, to be paid in accordance with an approved budget and payment schedule; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is authorized and empowered to execute and deliver all instruments and take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purpose hereof.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

| Year | Fund | Dept | Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit | Object/ Sub- Object | Trust Account | Dollars |
|-----------|------|------|--|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 2019-2022 | 711 | 71 | T16U | 4380 | T1016 | \$415,000.00 |
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Budget Funding Year(s) **2019-2022**

Start Date: **October 1, 2019**; End Date: **September 30, 2022**

(must match resolution)

Funding Source

\$ 415,000.00

(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars _____

State Aid _____

Federal Aid **(\$415,000.00)**

Other _____