

77708

DATE July 1, 2020

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Norma V. Drummond
Commissioner of Planning

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing an agreement between the County of Westchester and Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., for a Helping Seniors Age in Place Securely Program for Low/Moderate Income Seniors in the Westchester Urban County Consortium Communities

The attached resolution authorizes the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., (WRO) to provide a grant from the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The grant will fund a Helping Seniors Age in Place Securely Program in Westchester Urban County Consortium communities. The amount of the grant is \$60,000.00, and the term of the agreement is July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization that offers extensive housing assistance and technical housing services to low/moderate income residents of Westchester County. WRO is the only HUD-certified counseling agency in Westchester. WRO will provide counseling to low/moderate income seniors that will assist seniors in remaining in their homes. Many senior citizens are not aware of their eligibility for benefits such as property tax discounts; HECM (Home Equity Conversion Mortgage); their ability to borrow against their equity to fund taxes and other living expenses; the ability to prevent foreclosure for not payment of property taxes as well as general housing counseling services. This contract will allow WRO to provide these services to 300-400 low to moderate income seniors in Consortium communities so that they may age in place. A senior counselor will travel throughout the consortium communities and provide more than the standard counseling services to seniors.

The goal and objective of this agreement is to assist seniors in remaining in their current residences. The program will be monitored by the Westchester County Department of Planning staff, who will review the payment requests to make sure all contractual requirements are met.

This procurement is in compliance with the County of Westchester Procurement Policy Procedures, pursuant to Section 3(a)xvi, which states that contracts with recipients for disbursement of grants or loans under the Community Development Block Grant Program are exempt.

Act # 20-2020, adopted March 9, 2020, by the Westchester County Board of Legislators, authorized the County to submit an Urban County Application under the Federal Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant, and HOME Investment Partnership Program, including a FY 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and to accept such Grants.

On May 14, 2020, the Board of Acquisition and Contract approved a resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to accept a grant totaling \$4,978,089 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

I recommend approval of this agreement.

NVV/cp
Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 07/09/2020 - LISI, NPIAJ, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

UPON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING, BE IT HEREBY

RESOLVED: that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., through the Community Development Block Grant Program, in the amount of \$60,000.00, pursuant to an approved budget, for a term beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, to conduct a helping seniors in place securely program that will help 300-400 senior homeowners. This program will assist seniors who live in a Westchester Urban County Consortium communities in order for them to remain in their homes, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is authorized to execute any documents and take any actions necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
263	19	067V	4380	T067	\$60,000

Budget Funding Year(s)
(must match resolution)

FY 2020 Start Date July 1, 2020 End Date June 30, 2021

Funding Source

Tax Dollars _____

State Aid _____

\$60,000
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid \$60,000 – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Other _____