

79745

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

DATE: September 28, 2020

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into a grant agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to accept a grant for an amount not to exceed \$17,000.00 to enable the County of Westchester to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency to support families impacted by domestic violence, for a term commencing on March 27, 2020 and continuing through July 31, 2021.

The County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through the Westchester County Office for Women, is requesting authority to enter into a grant agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS") to accept a grant for an amount not to exceed \$17,000.00 to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency to support families impacted by domestic violence, for a term commencing on March 27, 2020 and continuing through July 31, 2021 (the "Grant Agreement").

The Grant Agreement will serve a public purpose by making available to the County certain Federal pass-through funds that the County can and will use to provide financial assistance for eligible OFW clients impacted by COVID-19. These Federal pass-through funds are in connection with the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act ("FVPSA") Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security ("CARES") Act.

OCFS allowable expenses under the Grant Agreement include, but are not limited to:

- client hotel/motel stays (homelessness must be directly related to COVID-19);
- client assistance with rent, utilities, phone/Internet bills and other related living expenses to help avoid homelessness (need must be directly related to COVID-19);
- client assistance with transportation to services that are no longer available near where they live due to COVID-19 restrictions: mileage reimbursement, transportation (e.g. car service, taxi, ride share, train, bus), metro cards, tolls and parking;
- client expenses related to safety measures or essential needs that might present barriers to safety and housing stability, such as debt or car repair expense, transportation expenses, and other miscellaneous expenses; and

- flexible uses of funding to enable victims to remain safe and stably housed in the community.

Eligibility criteria for the financial assistance is as follows:

- must be a client of the Office for Women;
- must be a victim of domestic violence; and
- the need for funds must be related to COVID-19.

The goal and objective of the Grant Agreement is in the best interests of the County in terms of the public health, safety and general welfare, as many domestic violence victims have experienced financial hardships due to COVID-19. Some lost their jobs and can no longer afford their rent; others were not able to petition for child support as the courts were closed. This financial assistance may prevent victims from losing their homes and help them pay for living expenses.

The goal and objective of the Grant Agreement is also in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility, as it will make available to the County certain Federal pass-through funds for the aforementioned work.

The Grant Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women.

I certify that my department, a) has copies of, or access to all applicable laws, rules, regulations, grant applications, and grant agreements (including any master agreement), as well as any guidance or instructions received from the agency making the grant (the "Grant Terms"), b), has reviewed the Grant Terms, c) is aware of and understands all of the Grant Terms and d) can and will comply with all of the Grant Terms.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Director of the Office for Women, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") is hereby authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS") pursuant to which the County will accept a grant awarded to it by OCFS, for an amount not to exceed \$17,000.00 which are Federal pass-through funds in connection with the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act ("FVPSA") Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security ("CARES") Act to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency to support families impacted by domestic violence (the "Grant Agreement"); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the term of the Grant Agreement will commence on March 27, 2020 and continue through July 31, 2021; 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	Revenue Source	Trust Account	Dollars	Funding Year
263	11	V025	9853	G025	\$17,000.00	2020-2021

Budget Funding Year(s) 2020-2021 **Start Date:** 3/27/2020 **End Date:** 7/31/2021
 (must match resolution)

\$17,000.00
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars _____
 State Aid _____
 Federal Aid \$17,000.00