

DATE March 11, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Edward Buroughs
Acting Commissioner

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the Agreement Between the County of Westchester and the Community Environmental Center to Provide Energy Audits, Training & Technical Services.

The attached resolution authorizes the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Community Environmental Center, to provide a grant through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The WAP grant will be used to provide energy audits, training and technical services to assist in providing energy efficient improvements to multifamily rental buildings occupied by very low income households. The term of the agreement is March 1, 2010, to December 31, 2011, and the amount of the grant is \$600,000.00 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget.

The Community Environmental Center (CEC) is a non-profit organization that provides affordable weatherization to under-served communities, and comprehensive energy and green building consulting to all types of organizations. CEC is the largest non-profit weatherization contractor in New York. They address environmental problems which undermine the health and well being of people, the affordability and sustainability of housing, and the development of local economies. The CEC's mission is to assist people throughout New York in achieving a healthier, more affordable life through improvements to their home and community environments and by providing educational and technical assistance services through the CEC Learning Center. For the past 15 years, the CEC has been working with the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal to implement efficiency enhancements for thousands of units and to improve the weatherization process. The services provided by the CEC will include, but not be limited to, providing energy efficient audits in multifamily rental buildings occupied by very low income households, analyzing the existing fuel/energy consumption for the buildings that are enrolled in the WAP program as well as making recommendations to reduce fuel, electricity and water usage. In addition, the CEC will provide training, technical assistance, and services to staff relating to specific technical aspects of the building improvements, construction monitoring, and program operation.

The agreement serves the public purpose of improving the public health and safety, and fiscal responsibility.

The goal and objective of this agreement is to improve the health and safety of residents of Westchester County. The energy audits provided by the CEC will document existing conditions and provide recommendations for energy efficiency and health and safety improvements related to administering the WAP program in approximately 732 rental units in Westchester County. These rental units will receive energy efficient upgrades which will reduce carbon emissions that affect global climate changes as well as improving the energy efficiency of the homes. As a result of the services provided by the CEC, the useful life of the buildings will be extended thus preserving the affordable housing stock vital to the County's economic well being. The agreement also exhibits fiscal responsibility by providing funds from

non-County taxpayer sources. The project will be monitored by the Department of Planning staff, who will review all payment requests to make sure all contractual requirements are met and will review all reports and efficiency recommendations to ensure they are practical and satisfactory.

Should the agreement not be authorized, the grand funds will not be expended on eligible grant activities prior to the end of the grant term and will be returned to NYS Division of Housing & Community Renewal, thereby reducing the number of energy efficient housing units that are available to low income residents of the County.

In accordance with the County of Westchester's Procurement Policy and Procedures, a Request for Proposal was posted on the County's website. The Department of Planning issued a public RFP on August 21, 2009. We received five (5) positive responses. After a thorough analysis of the submitted proposals, it was determined Community Environmental Center made the most responsive proposal. Community Environmental was also the only responder that uses the EA-QUIP software required by the Department of Environmental Protection.

On September 24, 2009, the Board of Acquisition and Contract approved a resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal for a Weatherization Assistance Program Grant totaling \$10,400,000.00. Of this amount \$5,000,000 was awarded. This grant is under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

I recommend approval of this agreement.

EB/db
Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 4-15-2010 -- JOSEPH M. MEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Community Environmental Center, through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), in the amount of \$600,000.00 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget, for a period beginning March 1, 2010, and ending December 31, 2011, to provide energy audits, training and technical services to assist in providing energy efficient improvements to multifamily rental buildings occupied by very low income households. The project will include, but not be limited to, providing energy audits in multifamily rental buildings occupied by very low income households, analyzing the existing fuel/energy consumption for the buildings that are enrolled in the WAP program, as well as making recommendations to reduce fuel, electricity and water usage, 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 purposes hereof.

Recommended for Approval:

Account to be Charged/Credited

		Major Program, Program & Phase	Object/	Trust	
Fund	Dept	Or Unit	Sub Object	Account	Dollars
263	19	964J	4420	T964	\$600,000.00

Budget Funding Year(s) (must match resolution)

FY 2009 Start Date March 1, 2010 End Date December 31, 2011

Funding Source

Tax Dollars _____

State Aid \$600,000.00 (ARRA)

\$600,000.00
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid _____

Other _____

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APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACTS 4-15-2010 - JOMAR NEIRA, SECRETARY