



George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin McGuire
Commissioner

OnBase # 80756

DATE: November 10, 2020

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin McGuire
Commissioner, Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Mount Vernon United Tenants, Inc. for eviction prevention and re-housing services to low and moderate-income people residents of Mount Vernon, for a term commencing retroactively to January 1, 2020 and expiring on December 31, 2020, for a not to exceed amount of \$50,000.00.

Transmitted herewith is a resolution requesting authority from your Honorable Board for the County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services ("Department"), to enter into an agreement ("Agreement") with Mount Vernon United Tenants, Inc. ("MVUT") for eviction prevention and re-housing services ("Program") for low and moderate-income people residing in Mount Vernon, for a term commencing retroactively to January 1, 2020 and expiring on December 31, 2020, for a not to exceed amount of \$50,000.00 pursuant to an approved budget.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are to provide tenants with administrative and/or judicial responses to local court actions, mediate between landlords and tenants, assist with the preparation of repayment plans, assist with identifying and collecting resources (financial and other), prepare meritorious defenses, and provide direct re-housing services. MVUT successfully prevents over 75 evictions and rehouses more than 15 families per year.

The public purpose of the proposed Agreement is to assist low and moderate-income Westchester County residents in avoiding eviction and providing re-housing services to same in the event such eviction proceedings are successful. Without this Program, the tenants in need are

at greater risk of eviction, which risk as continuously increased during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of public health and safety as they are intended to protect low to moderate-income tenants residing in Mount Vernon from eviction and assisting them in re-housing.

The goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility as it will reduce the level of homelessness in Westchester County, which has increased over the last years since rents have been rising continuously and recently due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Agreement is aimed at reducing the need of such tenants to resort to shelter services.

The goals and objectives of this contract will be tracked and monitored through performance measurement indicators approved by the Department. They include, but are not limited to, the submission of monthly reports.

The procurement of this Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a) xiv regarding support to persons in need of public assistance. It should be noted that this Agreement is not subject to 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 federal funding for this program falls under Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into the proposed Agreement with MVUT to operate the above Program.

KMG/CMC

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (“County”) is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement (“Agreement”) with Mount Vernon United Tenants, Inc. (“MVUT”) for eviction prevention and re-housing services (“Program”) to low and moderate-income people residents of Mount Vernon, for a term commencing retroactively on January 1, 2020 and expiring on December 31, 2020, for a not to exceed amount of \$50,000.00 pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is subject to County appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is also subject to further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget (the “State Budget”) proposed and adopted during the term of this Agreement. The County shall retain the right, upon the occurrence of any release by the Governor of a proposed State Budget and/or the adoption of a State Budget or any amendments thereto, and for a reasonable period of time after such release(s) or adoption(s), to conduct an analysis of the impacts of any such State Budget on County finances. After such analysis, the County shall retain the right to either terminate this Agreement or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to the contractor, then the contractor shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents and to take such other 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
101	22	8900	5960		\$50,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2020 Start Date: 01.01.2020 End Date: 12.31.2020
(must match resolution)

Funding Source	Tax Dollars: 49 %
	State Aid: 30%
<u>\$50,000</u>	Federal Aid: 21%
(must match resolution)	Other: