

**81418**

DATE: December 11, 2020

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Joseph K. Spano  
Commissioner of Correction

RE: Request for authority for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with St. John's Riverside Hospital to operate a violence prevention program for selected inmates in the custody of the Westchester County Department of Correction, for a term commencing January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in amount not to exceed \$519,225.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget

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Authority is requested for the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Correction ("DOC"), to enter into an agreement ("Agreement") with St. John's Riverside Hospital ("St. John's") to operate a violence prevention program known as the Resolve to Stop the Violence Program ("RSVP Program") for selected inmates in the DOC's custody, for a term January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$519,225.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget.

The RSVP Program is based on a "restorative justice" model that has been successfully implemented at the San Francisco County Jail. St. John's has successfully implemented and operated the RSVP Program since its inception on May 19, 2008 and enhanced same by including concurrent chemical dependence treatment.

The goals & objectives of the RSVP Program are to address the unique treatment needs of males that have a violent behavior history, are chemically dependent and incarcerated at the Westchester County Department of Correction's jail ("County's Jail"). The RSVP Program is a crime – victim driven program. It is a violence cessation program that reaches out to perpetrators with the goals of providing:

- Ongoing recruitment and training of qualified program staff to implement the continuing operation of a 44 inmate program. This will include violence intervention training as well as victim impact and theatre arts components.
- Inmate learning of the tools and strategies necessary to understand the roots of their violent behavior and its impact on themselves, victims and the community.
- Provision of quality addiction treatment services with recognition of the linkage between addiction and violence.
- Improved conduct and program participation while an inmate at the County's Jail.
- Successful transition to community and reduction in risk for relapse and recidivism due to violent behavior and drug usage. Availability of community center component upon discharge.

Quarterly program evaluations and an annual report will be completed to determine the RSVP Program's effectiveness and the achievement of stated goals and objectives.

St. John's will also use the following subcontractor in performing these services:

Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., a/k/a WestCOP  
Victim Assistance Services  
2269 Saw Mill River Road  
Elmsford, NY 10523  
(Victim impact panel sessions)

**Impact:**

The RSVP Program is a Restorative Justice Model of violence intervention based on the principle that crime is an offense against the community, not simply a violation against the state, and creates an obligation to make things right. Offenders in this program learn how to avoid violence and are given the opportunity to understand and take responsibility for the harm done. Violent offenders incarcerated at the County's Jail participate in a targeted intervention program that will identify and address the root causes of violence. They will learn how to break the cycle of violence which leads to future arrests and incarcerations. The RSVP Program's methodology incorporates offender accountability and community involvement to reduce recidivism and to responsibly return ex-offenders to their communities, and prevent further violence. Inmates will also learn to use their hands on experience to become community advocates at different levels of opportunity in their life, at home and in their neighborhood, leading to the restoration of perpetrator, victim and community.

**Evaluation:**

Evaluation of the RSVP Program's effectiveness is summarized as follows:

Violent offenders with broadly defined violent charges such as assault, domestic violence, armed robbery, rape and murder or have cases pending for violent offenses are mandated to the RSVP Program.

The RSVP Program is located in an all-male 44-bed direct supervision cell-block. The RSVP Program consists of peer re-education classes (*Manalive curriculum*), group discussions, academic classes, role-playing, counseling sessions, substance abuse treatment services and discussions with victims/survivors of violence.

In the past 12 months:

- 110 inmates were admitted to the Resolve to Stop Violence Program
- 55 inmates successfully completed the program
- 73 Referrals were made to the RSVP Program

The RSVP Program will have a positive financial and public safety impact on the County and its communities.

This Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to section 3(a)(viii) and 3(a)(xvii) thereof.

Accordingly, I recommend adoption of the annexed Resolution.

JKP/CMC  
Attachment

**RESOLUTION**

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of Correction, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is authorized to enter into an agreement (“Agreement”) with St. John’s Riverside Hospital (“St. John’s”) to operate a violence prevention program known as Resolve to Stop the Violence Program for selected inmates in the custody of the Westchester County Department of Correction, for the term from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, for an aggregate amount not to exceed \$519,225.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that St. John’s is authorized to use the following subcontractor in performing these services:

Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., a/k/a WestCOP  
 Victim Assistance Services  
 2269 Saw Mill River Road  
 Elmsford, NY 10523  
 (Victim impact panel sessions)

**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 St. John’s, then St. John’s shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his/her duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute any documents and take any actions reasonably necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

Account to be Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	35	1000	4230		\$317,345
711	35	011U	4230	T011	\$201,880

Budget Funding Year(s) 2021 Start Date 01.01.2021 End Date: 12.31.2021

(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars 317,345  
 State Aid \_\_\_\_\_

\$519,225.00 Federal Aid \_\_\_\_\_

(must match resolution) Other 201,880 (Inmate trust fund) \_\_\_\_\_