

82714

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Honorable George Latimer
Westchester County Executive
Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

DATE: February 16, 2021

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc., pursuant to which it will provide case management services, child care services, counseling services for children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence, domestic violence education services, and legal services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, for a term from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, for an amount not-to-exceed \$176,756.00

Authority is hereby requested from your Honorable Board for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("My Sisters' Place"), for an amount not-to-exceed One Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars (\$176,756.00), payable quarterly, pursuant to an approved budget, for a term commencing on January 1, 2021 and continuing through December 31, 2021, and pursuant to which My Sisters' Place will provide the following services:

- case management services for counseling programs serving victims of domestic violence, community training for service providers and healthcare workers, and outreach programs (the "Case Management Services");
- on-site temporary child care through My Sisters' Place's Tot Drop Program for children whose mothers/caretakers are accessing non-residential domestic violence services (the "Child Care Services");
- counseling services for children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence (the "Children's Counseling Services");
- teen dating and domestic violence prevention education through My Sisters' Place's Domestic Violence Education and Prevention Program as part of its Next Generation Educational Programming (the "Domestic Violence Education Services"); and
- legal services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking through My Sisters' Place's Center for Legal Services (the "Legal Services").

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by supporting state-mandated non-residential domestic violence services for victims of abuse. Non-residential domestic violence services enable victims to become safe and independent and to avoid returning to their abusers or becoming dependent on public assistance. In addition, those abused by a partner often spend their time having to watch and/or care for their children while obtaining these services. Children not having to be in their parents' counseling sessions and thereby reliving trauma and being privy to information they should not need to be exposed to positively impacts the children's mental health.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are to provide case management services for residential and non-residential domestic violence programs, and overall management of program statistics and evaluation, contract development and reporting, program development and ensuring compliance with performance measures; child care services through My Sisters' Place's Tot Drop Program; counseling services for children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence; teen dating and domestic violence prevention education through My Sisters' Place's Domestic Violence Education and Prevention Program as part of its Next Generation Educational Programming; and legal services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of the public health, safety and general welfare, as educating teens may enable them to recognize the signs of abuse, and consequently break the cycle of violence and prevent their involvement in an abusive relationship now or in their future, thereby reducing pain and suffering, public safety costs and medical costs. In addition, providing domestic violence related support services for children will reduce the likelihood of problematic emotional and behavioral patterns.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women.

Please be advised that Section 459-c of the New York Social Services Law directs social services districts, such as the County, to offer and provide non-residential services to victims of domestic violence, whether eligible or ineligible for public assistance. Under the law, non-residential services programs must have the ability to provide the following services:

- 1) Information and referral services;
- 2) Advocacy;
- 3) Counseling;
- 4) Community education and outreach activities; and
- 5) Hotline services.

The procurement of the Case Management Services is exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a)(viii) thereof, which exempts contracts with agencies engaging healthcare workers.

The procurement of the Child Care Services and Children's Counseling Services is exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xviii) thereof, which exempts contracts for the advancement of the moral, physical, mental and social well-being of the youth of Westchester County.

The procurement of the Domestic Violence Education Services is exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a)(ix) thereof, which exempts contracts with teachers, lecturers, and other educational professionals or experts.

Authority to exempt the procurement of the Legal Services from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof, has been submitted for your Board's consideration via separate resolution.

We respectfully recommend the adoption of the attached resolution.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT 03/11/2021 - LISA MURRAY, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Westchester County Executive and 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 an agreement (the "Agreement") with My Sisters' Place, Inc., ("My Sisters' Place") for a term commencing on January 1, 2021 and continuing through December 31, 2021, for an amount not to exceed One Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars (\$176,756.00), payable quarterly, pursuant to an approved budget, and pursuant to which My Sisters' Place will provide the following services:

- case management services for counseling programs serving victims of domestic violence, community training for service providers and healthcare workers, and outreach programs;
- on-site temporary child care through My Sisters' Place's Tot Drop Program for children whose mothers/caretakers are accessing non-residential domestic violence services;
- counseling services for children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence;
- teen dating and domestic violence prevention education through My Sisters' Place's Domestic Violence Education and Prevention Program as part of its Next Generation Educational Programming; and
- legal services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking through My Sisters' Place's Center for Legal Services

; 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 My Sisters' Place, then My Sisters' Place 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 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	Funding Year
101	52	2508	5100	N/A	\$176,756	2021

Budget Funding Year(s) 2021

(must match resolution)

Start Date: 1/1/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

Funding Source:

Tax Dollars \$176,756

State Aid _____

Federal Aid _____

Other _____

\$176,756

(must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 03/11/2021
ALISA MRNAJ, SECRETARY