

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Leonard G. Townes
Commissioner

84886

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Leonard G. Townes
Commissioner

DATE: April 27, 2021

SUBJECT: Authority to amend a resolution approved on December 23, 2020 which authorized the County to enter into an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (“LSHV”) pursuant to which LSHV would operate an Eviction Prevention Legal Services Program to provide access to eviction prevention legal services for at-risk low-income Westchester County individuals or families, and victims of domestic violence, facing eviction and loss of permanent housing, in Yonkers City Court, Mount Vernon City Court, White Plains City Court, Peekskill City Court, the Village of Ossining Justice Courts, and other Westchester eviction courts, as needed for a term commencing on January 1, 2021 and continuing through December 31, 2021 for an amount not-to-exceed \$1,105,680, payable at approved rates for specific services rendered, by reflecting an increase in the not-to-exceed amount from \$1,105,680 to \$1,118,920.

By resolution approved on December 23, 2020 (the “December 23rd Resolution”), your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the “Department”), to enter into an agreement (the “Agreement”) with LSHV, pursuant to which LSHV would operate an Eviction Prevention Legal Services Program to provide access to eviction prevention legal services for at-risk low-income Westchester County individuals or families, and victims of domestic violence, facing eviction and loss of permanent housing, in Yonkers City Court, Mount Vernon City Court, White Plains City Court, Peekskill City Court, the Village of Ossining Justice Courts, and other Westchester eviction courts, as needed, for a term commencing on January 1, 2021 and continuing through December 31, 2021.

The Agreement has not yet been executed.

As a result of implementing its services Countywide over this past year in conjunction with the COVID-19 restrictions, it became apparent that adjustments were necessary for some of the contract terms contained in the December 23rd Resolution. As such, the Department and LSHV renegotiated some of these terms. As a result of these negotiations, the parties have now agreed to increase the not-to-exceed cap by \$13,240, from an amount not-to-exceed \$1,105,680 to a new amount not-to-exceed \$1,118,920.

Accordingly, authority is now requested to amend the December 23rd Resolution which authorized the County to enter into an Agreement with LSHV pursuant to which LSHV would operate an Eviction Prevention Legal Services Program to provide access to eviction prevention legal services for at-risk low-income Westchester County individuals or families, and victims of domestic violence, facing eviction and loss of permanent housing, in Yonkers City Court, Mount Vernon City Court, White Plains City Court, Peekskill City Court, the Village of Ossining Justice Courts, and other Westchester eviction courts, as needed, for a term commencing on January 1, 2021 and continuing through December 31, 2021 in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,105,680, payable at approved fees per services rendered, in order to reflect an increase in the not-to-exceed amount from \$1,105,680 to \$1,118,920.

Except as specifically amended hereby, all remaining terms and conditions contained in the December 23rd Resolution shall remain in full force and effect.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by providing legal representation to low-income families in the County who are at risk of becoming homeless and entering the County's shelter system.

The goal of EPLS is to reduce the number of homeless households entering the shelter system due to loss of permanent housing by eviction. The program is designed to provide legal representation to prevent evictions, divert homeless shelter placement and/or delay loss of permanent housing.

The goals and objectives of the Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Department.

The procurement of this Agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a) (xiv) thereof, which exempts contracts with not-for-profit organizations for the purposes of providing aid, care and support to persons in need of public assistance.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Resolution.

KMM/BG/TL/jpg
Attachment

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the resolution approved on December 23, 2020 (the “December 23rd Resolution”) which authorized the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to enter into an agreement (the “Agreement”) with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (“LSHV”), pursuant to which LSHV would operate an Eviction Prevention Legal Services Program to provide access to eviction prevention legal services for at-risk low-income Westchester County individuals or families, and victims of domestic violence, facing eviction and loss of permanent housing, in Yonkers City Court, Mount Vernon City Court, White Plains City Court, Peekskill City Court, the Village of Ossining Justice Courts, and other Westchester eviction courts, as needed, for a term commencing on January 1, 2021 and continuing through December 31, 2021 for an amount not-to-exceed \$1,105,680, payable at approved rates for specific services rendered, is hereby amended to reflect an increase in the not-to-exceed amount from \$1,105,680 to \$1,118,920; and be it further

RESOLVED, that except as specifically amended hereby, all remaining terms and conditions contained in the December 23rd Resolution shall remain in full force and effect; 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.

December 23 rd Resolution	\$ 1,105,680
<u>This Resolution Amendment</u>	<u>13,240</u>
Total Contract Amount	\$ 1,118,920

Account to be Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2021	101	22	8900	5960	---	\$13,240

Budget Funding Year(s): 2021 Start Date: 01/01/2021 End Date: 12/31/2021
(must match resolution)

Funding Source	Tax Dollars: 100%
<u>\$ 13,240</u>	State Aid: 0%
(must match resolution)	Federal Aid: 0%
	Other: