

86139

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

DATE: July 1, 2021

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into a grant agreement with the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence to accept a grant for an amount not to exceed \$54,054.00 to enable the County to enhance survivor-centered housing services for survivors of domestic violence throughout Westchester, for a term commencing on July 1, 2021 and continuing through September 30, 2022.

The County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") is requesting authority to enter into a grant agreement with the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence ("OPDV") to accept a grant for an amount not to exceed \$54,054.00 to enhance survivor-centered housing services for survivors of domestic violence throughout Westchester, for a term commencing on July 1, 2021 and continuing through September 30, 2022 (the "Grant Agreement").

The Grant Agreement will serve a public purpose by making available to the County certain Federal pass-through funds that the County can and will use to provide financial assistance for eligible victims of domestic violence. These Federal pass-through funds are in connection with the Safe Housing Options Grant Program.

OPDV allowable expenses under the Grant Agreement include, but are not limited to:

- Administrative expenses including agency costs associated with delivering housing services on the condition that funds cannot replace other federal or state funding. Funds can also be used for Continuum of Care Comparable Database related expenses and other necessary costs that effectuate programming.
- Client expenses including payments to survivors for purposes such as emergency/safety needs food, medical expenses, toiletries, first aid supplies, new beds/bedding, transitional housing, hotel vouchers, etc.; relocation assistance; transportation assistance; rent; utilities (past, startup, present – electric, gas, water, garbage, sewer, etc.); home safety/improvements (e.g., lock changes, security system purchases or upgrades), etc.
- Other Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) approved expenses.

The goal and objective of the Grant Agreement is in the best interests of the County in terms of the public health, safety and general welfare, as many domestic violence victims who flee from their abusers do not have a place to go or the funds to secure housing for themselves and possibly their children. This financial assistance may prevent victims from becoming homeless.

The goal and objective of the Grant Agreement is also in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility, as it will make available to the County certain Federal pass-through funds for the aforementioned work.

The Grant Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women.

I certify that my department, a) has copies of, or access to all applicable laws, rules, regulations, grant applications, and grant agreements (including any master agreement), as well as any guidance or instructions received from the agency making the grant (the "Grant Terms"), b), has reviewed the Grant Terms, c) is aware of and understands all of the Grant Terms and d) can and will comply with all of the Grant Terms.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from 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 a grant agreement with the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence ("OPDV") pursuant to which the County will accept a grant awarded to it by OPDV, for an amount not to exceed \$54,054.00 which are Federal pass-through funds in connection with the Safe Housing Options Grant Program to enhance survivor-centered housing services for survivors of domestic violence throughout Westchester (the "Grant Agreement"); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the term of the Grant Agreement will commence on July 1, 2021 and continue through September 30, 2022; 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.

Account to be charged/credited:

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase, Or Unit	Revenue Source	Trust Account	Dollars	Funding Year
263	11	W038	9853	G038	\$54,054.00	2021-2022

Budget Funding Year(s) 2021-2022 **Start Date:** 7/1/2021 **End Date:** 9/30/2022
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars _____
 State Aid _____
 Federal Aid \$54,054.00

\$54,054.00
 (must match resolution)