



George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Leonard Townes
Commissioner

Office for Women

Robin Schlaff
Director

87489

DATE: September 10, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Leonard Townes
Commissioner, Department of Social Services

Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into an agreement with Celia Megias in an amount not to exceed \$76,500 for consulting services to assist victims of domestic violence in securing safe, temporary shelter and to provide assistance to victims and their household members in linkage to supportive services for the period from September 23, 2021 through September 22, 2022 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The attached Resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the "County") to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with Celia Megias in an amount not to exceed \$76,500 for consulting services to assist domestic violence victims to secure safe, temporary shelter and to provide assistance to victims and their households with referrals and linkages to supportive services with the long range goal of client self-sufficiency for the period from September 23, 2021 through September 22, 2022 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

While numerous supportive service programs are available in Westchester, this Agreement will improve service delivery through education and training, linkage and coordination of services between service providers and victims of domestic violence and their household members.

Celia Megias will hold the position of Spanish-Speaking Domestic Violence Liaison (Consultant).

Additional responsibilities for Ms. Megias shall include, without limitation:

- assessing for and where appropriate grant temporary waivers of public assistance requirements which may place domestic violence victims at further risk or prevent them from escaping the abuse;
- periodically reassessing the individual's domestic violence circumstances and modify, terminate or extend waiver(s) for Temporary Assistance;
- providing referrals to the Crimes Victims Board for monetary compensation when customers are domestic violence victims and victims of other crime;
- assessing customers from other counties for domestic violence waivers at the Westchester County domestic violence shelters;
- DVL(domestic violence liaison) assisting with the Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill(CHOP) project by assessing clients/candidates with issues of domestic violence who are employed and placed in a DV shelter to obtain a grant towards their rent. Ensuring the client will be able to sustain housing after the subsidies; and
- provision of services in Spanish.

The public purpose of the proposed agreement is to ensure the immediate health, safety and welfare of victims of domestic violence in Westchester by providing them with access to safe temporary shelter and linkage to supportive services.

The goals and objectives of this program are to aid victims of domestic violence in securing safe, temporary shelter and to provide assistance to victims and their household members in linkage to supportive services with the long range goal of client self-sufficiency.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and public safety as they are aimed at protecting the health and safety of domestic violence victims. This program provides linkages to mental health providers and other healthcare providers who are vital to the safety and survival of victims of domestic violence.

The goals and objectives are in the County's best interests in terms of fiscal responsibility as the supportive services provided by this program focus on assisting victims to become self-sufficient.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. Ms. Megias will be required to submit to the Department quarterly statistical reports on all activities related to the program.

The Department is able to report that in 2020, Ms. Megias provided domestic violence services to 444 households (344 families and 100 single individuals) and in the first half of 2021 she provided services to 291 households (226 families and 65 single individuals) .

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) (xiv). The population served under this program are in need of public assistance by way of temporary housing accommodations and linkage to community based supportive services. This contract 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 Service Block Grant.

An appropriate resolution requesting your Honorable Board's approval to enter into the above stated agreement is attached herewith.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services and the Director of the Office for Women, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester ("County") is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Celia Megias in an amount not to exceed \$76,500 for consulting services to assist victims of domestic violence in securing safe, temporary shelter and to provide assistance to victims and their household members in linkage to supportive services for the period from September 23, 2021 through September 22, 2022 to be paid monthly 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 authorized designee is empowered to execute any document necessary to implement this Resolution.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONSTRUCTION - COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER - RAYMOND SULKIN, SECRETARY

Account to be
Charged/Credited

| | Fund | Dept | Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit | Object/ Sub-Object | Trust Account | Dollars |
|------|------|------|--|--------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 2021 | 101 | 22 | 8900 | 5850 | | \$ 20,825 |
| 2022 | 101 | 22 | 8900 | 5850 | | \$ 55,675 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Budget Funding Year(s): 2021-22 Start Date: 09/23/2021 End Date: 09/22/2022
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: 1 %
State Aid: 0 %
\$76,500 Federal Aid: 99 %
(must match resolution) Other:

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 10/07/2021 - RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY