

90573

To: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

Date: January 31, 2022

Subject: Resolution to exempt the procurement of an agreement with Women's Enterprise Development Center, Inc. pursuant to which it will provide a microenterprise training program pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy.

Authority is hereby requested from your Honorable Board to exempt the procurement of an agreement (the "Agreement") between the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") and Women's Enterprise Development Center, Inc. ("WEDC"), pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy. WEDC will provide microenterprise training and assistance to poor and minority women to assist them in reaching economic self-sufficiency, for a term commencing on January 1, 2022 and continuing through December 31, 2022.

Ordinarily under Section 6 of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, the County is required to solicit competitive proposals for a procurement expected to cost \$75,000.00 or more for these type of services, through a request for proposals ("RFP"). However, WEDC is uniquely qualified to run this kind of program. While there are other microenterprise programs in the County, no other entrepreneurial training program focuses specifically on women, although needs assessment research has shown that women face greater obstacles in setting up and maintaining businesses.

The need for this training for women is great. Self-employment through entrepreneurship provides low-income women with the opportunity to overcome poverty, to supplement low wages earned in the job market, to capitalize on talents and experience, to remove themselves from the welfare rolls, and to become self-sufficient.

The County believes that the requested exemption is justified because WEDC has successfully provided these services under contracts administered through the Office for Women since 2001. Women that have graduated from the program over the years have included socially and economically disadvantaged women, displaced

homemakers, Latina women, and child care providers. The majority of the graduates have since successfully started businesses.

In the years that WEDC has been funded through contracts administered by the Office for Women, your Board has determined that it was in the best interests of the County to exempt those contracts from the Westchester County Procurement Policy requirements because of its unique focus.

Based on the foregoing, it is proposed that the best interests of the County would be served by again exempting the procurement of the proposed Agreement from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof. Accordingly, a resolution to exempt this procurement is hereby submitted for your consideration.

We respectfully recommend the adoption of the attached resolution.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 02/24/2022 - RAYMOND S. [REDACTED] SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Westchester County Executive and the Director of the Office for Women, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, it is hereby determined that application of the procedural requirements contained therein, including the necessity of soliciting proposals, is neither cost effective nor expedient, and accordingly, not in the best interests of the County of Westchester in connection with the procurement of an agreement with the Women's Enterprise Development Center, Inc. ("WEDC"), for a term commencing on January 1, 2022 and continuing through December 31, 2022, pursuant to which WEDC will provide microenterprise training and assistance to poor and minority women to assist them in reaching economic self-sufficiency.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 02/24/2022 - RAYMOND J. GILBERT, SECRETARY