

90574

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: Authority to enter into an agreement with Women's Enterprise Development Center, Inc., pursuant to which it will provide microenterprise training and assistance to poor and minority women, for a term from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$202,926.00.

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 Women's Enterprise Development Center, Inc. ("WEDC"), pursuant to which 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, for an amount not to exceed \$202,926.00, payable quarterly pursuant to an approved budget.

WEDC was founded in 1997 to provide women with personal skills and business training they need to start their own businesses and achieve economic self-sufficiency. No other entrepreneurial training program in the County focuses specifically on women, despite the fact that needs assessment research has shown that women face greater obstacles in setting up and maintaining businesses than do men. Specifically targeted by WEDC under this contract are women on public assistance, displaced homemakers and Latina women. Within these categories, priority will be given to domestic violence victims.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by providing women with the training necessary to become economically self-sufficient. The skills learned by participants enable them to depend less on government entitlements or not at all. Some graduates augment their low incomes with entrepreneurship, while others are able to support themselves entirely. Some even hire staff, creating new avenues for employment for Westchester residents.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are for WEDC to provide workshops/seminars for women, one-on-one business counseling sessions, financial resource counseling and referrals, and Path to Entrepreneurship sessions.

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

Authority to exempt the procurement of the proposed Agreement from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof, has been granted by your Honorable Board pursuant to a separate resolution submitted on even date herewith.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Resolution.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 02/24/2022 - RAYMOND SCUKA, 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 Women's Enterprise Development Center, Inc. ("WEDC"), pursuant to which 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, for an amount not to exceed \$202,926.00, payable quarterly 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 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(s) |
|------|------|---|--------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 101 | 11 | 0900 | 4380 | N/A | \$83,736 | 2022 |
| 101 | 52 | 2508 | 5100 | N/A | \$119,190 | 2022 |

Budget Funding Year(s) 2022 **Start Date:** 1/1/2022 **End Date:** 12/31/2022
 (must match resolution)

\$202,926
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars \$202,926
 State Aid _____
 Federal Aid _____
 Other _____