

91030

To: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

Date: February 14, 2022

Subject: Authority to enter into two (2) separate agreements, each of which will be funded by a portion of a grant, will be for a term commencing on October 1, 2021 and continuing through September 30, 2025, and pursuant to which each party will provide services in connection with the Westchester County Domestic Violence High Risk Team, as follows:

- 1.) Hope's Door, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$711,550.00; and
- 2.) Pace University, for an amount not to exceed \$158,868.00.

By a resolution approved on October 14, 2021, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") to enter into a grant agreement with the United States Department of Justice, acting by and through its Office on Violence Against Women, ("OVW") pursuant to which the County would accept a grant awarded to it by OVW under OVW's Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking ("ICJR") Grant Program (the "Grant"), in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, in order to implement the Westchester County Domestic Violence High Risk Team ("DVHRT"), for the period from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2025 (the "Grant Agreement"). The Grant Agreement was subsequently executed.

As part of the County's application to OVW for the Grant, the County submitted a 'Memorandum of Understanding' ("MOU"), in accordance with OVW's application guidelines. The MOU specified the "partners" with whom the County would work in implementing and operating DVHRT. The MOU included the two (2) parties specified above.

Accordingly, the County respectfully requests authority from your Honorable Board to enter into two (2) separate agreements, each of which will use a portion of the funds from the Grant; will be for a term commencing on October 1, 2021 and continuing through September 30, 2025, and pursuant to which each party will provide services in connection with DVHRT, as follows:

- 1.) An agreement with Hope's Door, Inc. ("HD"), pursuant to which it will provide a Project Director to supervise the work of DVHRT and a High Risk Domestic Violence Advocate to provide direct services to high risk victims by assessing

danger, providing safety planning, advocacy and information/referral, for an amount not to exceed \$711,550.00, payable quarterly pursuant to an approved budget; and

- 2.) An agreement with Pace University, acting by and through its Elisabeth Haub School of Law's Pace Women's Justice Center, ("PWJC") pursuant to which it will provide training to police departments throughout Westchester County as well as participate in case consultations and oversee referrals for legal services, for an amount not to exceed \$158,868.00, payable quarterly pursuant to an approved budget.

The proposed agreements will serve a public purpose by enhancing the safety and independence of victims of abuse. If victims are empowered to learn how to develop and maintain their own safety, they are not as likely to return to dependence on their abusers, thereby reducing public safety costs and medical costs. If they are helped to empower themselves to be independent and self-sufficient, they are not as likely to be dependent on public assistance.

The goal and objective of the proposed agreements is to implement DVHRT throughout Westchester in order to assess and address risk of serious harm or death for victims of intimate partner violence, connect them with services, increase the number of prosecutions and provide greater safety for victims and their families.

The goal and objective of the proposed agreements is in the best interests of the County in terms of the public health, safety and general welfare, as many victims who are at high risk do not receive the support services they need to stay safe. This grant will help prevent intimate partner homicides in Westchester.

The goal and objective of the proposed agreements will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women by means of quarterly reports and ongoing communication with HD and PWJC.

The procurement of the proposed agreements is exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xi) thereof, which exempts "any procurement made pursuant to procurement procedures provided for under any other federal or state law applicable to such procurement," as the County complied with the procedures specified by OVW for the Grant.

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 two (2) separate agreements, each of which will be for a term commencing on October 1, 2021 and continuing through September 30, 2025, and pursuant to which each party will provide services in connection with the Westchester County Domestic Violence High Risk Team ("DVHRT"), as follows:

- 1.) An agreement with Hope's Door, Inc., pursuant to which it will provide a Project Director to supervise the work of DVHRT and a High Risk Domestic Violence Advocate to provide direct services to high risk victims by assessing danger, providing safety planning, advocacy and information/referral, for an amount not to exceed \$711,550.00, payable quarterly pursuant to an approved budget; and
- 2.) An agreement with Pace University, acting by and through its Elisabeth Haub School of Law's Pace Women's Justice Center, ("PWJC") pursuant to which it will provide training to police departments throughout Westchester County as well as participate in case consultations and oversee referrals for legal services, for an amount not to exceed \$158,868.00, payable quarterly pursuant to an approved budget

; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is hereby authorized and empowered to execute any and all documents and take any actions necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

\$711,550.00 HD
 \$158,868.00 PWJC
\$870,418.00 Total

Account to be charged/credited:

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase, or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars	Funding Year(s)
263	11	W042	4380	G042	\$870,418	2021-2025

Budget Funding Year(s) 2021-2025 Start Date: 10/1/2021 End Date: 9/30/2025
 (must match resolution)

\$870,418
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars _____
 State Aid _____
 Federal Aid \$870,418
 Other _____