

95113

DATE: August 1, 2022

TO: The Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Sherlita Amler, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

SUBJECT: Request for authority for the County of Westchester, by and through its Department of Health, to enter into an agreement with Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, Inc., for the County to provide funding to improve the lives of its community members pursuant to which it will provide expanded and affordable comprehensive primary and preventative health care services to primarily the uninsured and underinsured, for the period from upon execution through March 31, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, with 25% to be paid upon execution and the remaining amount to be paid quarterly via voucher upon achievement of goals and milestones.

The attached Resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (“County”), by and through its Department of Health (“WCDH”), to enter into an agreement with the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, Inc., (“MVNHC”) for the County to provide funding to assist the MVNHC to improve the lives of its community members pursuant to which it will provide expanded and affordable comprehensive primary and preventative health care services to primarily the uninsured and underinsured, for the period from upon execution through March 31, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, with 25% to be paid upon execution and the remaining amount to be paid quarterly via voucher upon achievement of goals and milestones (the “Agreement”).

The MVNHC has been a steady presence in the community for almost fifty years. As a Federally Qualified Health Center and Article 28 Licensed Diagnostic and Treatment Center, it has always strived to provide comprehensive quality health care services for residents of all ages and statuses, immigration and financial.

Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, African American and Hispanic residents have suffered the most in terms of delayed care and treatment for hypertension, diabetes and vaccinations. It is known and has been well documented that these groups of persons have been isolated and

disenfranchised and their poorer health outcomes relative to other groups represent the existing racial disparities in the overall health care system.

The Agreement will serve a public purpose by providing the MVNHC the means to improve the health-related quality of life of its patients by diagnosing and treating chronic health diseases including but not limited to, hypertension, diabetes and asthma.

The main goal of the Agreement is to ensure that the necessary health care services are accessible and delivered to its poorest uninsured, underinsured and clients of all ages in a safe and culturally sensitive environment. The objective is to foster healthier communities by providing continuity of care which will be accomplished by hiring outreach workers whose mission will be to encourage vaccinations and ensure that patients with chronic conditions receive the healthcare they need on a preventative basis rather than in an emergency room or acute hospital setting. In addition, a Referral Group will be created within MVNHC to ensure that any patient in need of a specialty referral is provided one timely and that all of that respective patient's medical records are maintained in one system.

MVNHC will voucher quarterly for the cost of salaries of new staff, unreimbursed services for the uninsured and underinsured, staff retention incentives, facility renovations and reintroduction to the community. The MVNHC will also provide quarterly reports stating health outcomes for chronic disease goals and patient satisfaction results.

This Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Health Department by reviewing quarterly vouchers for expenses incurred and MVNHC's reported health outcomes against established milestones.

The Agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)viii thereof.

It is respectfully requested and recommended that your Honorable Board approve the annexed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Health, it is hereby:

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester ("County") is authorized to enter into an agreement with Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, Inc. ("MVNHC"), for the County to provide funding to assist the MVNHC to improve the lives of its community members pursuant to which it will provide expanded and affordable comprehensive primary and preventative health care services to primarily the uninsured and underinsured, for the period from upon execution through March 31, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, with 25% to be paid upon execution and the remaining amount to be paid quarterly via voucher upon achievement of goals and milestones (the "Agreement"); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Agreement is subject to County appropriations; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the 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 the 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 adoptions(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 the 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 the 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	Sub-unit	Object/Sub Object	Dollars
101	27	0010-HSDS	0010	5125	\$1,140,000 (2022)
101	27	0010-HSDS	0010	5125	\$860,000 (2023)
				9898	Revenue* (100%)

Budget Funding Year(s): 2022-2023 Start Date: Upon Execution End Date: 3/31/2023
 (must match resolution)

***Emergency Recovery Direct Fed.**

Funding Source

Tax Dollars 100%

State Aid _____

\$2,000,000
 (must match resolution)

Federal Aid _____

Other -----

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 08/11/2022 RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY