



Kenneth W. Jenkins
Westchester County Executive

Department of Social Services

Leonard G. Townes
Commissioner

110308

DATE: January 15, 2025

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Leonard G. Townes, Commissioner
Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to amend an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. for the purpose of providing advocacy and support services to children and victims of domestic violence, for the period from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, for an amount not to exceed \$586,000.00, in order to extend the term of the agreement by three months, from January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025, and increase the not-to-exceed amount by \$147,000.00.

On February 15, 2024, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester acting by and through its Department of Social Services ("the Department") to enter into an agreement (DSS6020-24) with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("My Sisters' Place") for the purpose of providing advocacy and support services to children and victims of domestic violence, for the period from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, for an amount not to exceed \$586,000.00, to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. The Agreement was subsequently executed.

On January 13, 2025 the department issued a Request for Proposal ("RFP") soliciting proposals from qualified vendors for the provision of non-residential support services for survivors of domestic violence as well as domestic violence education and training services. In order to maintain continuity for these critical services, authority is respectfully requested to amend the Agreement with My Sisters' Place for the continued provision of advocacy and support services to children and victims of domestic violence, by extending the term thereof by three (3) months, from January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025, increase the not-to-exceed amount thereunder by \$147,000.00, to a new total amount not to exceed of \$733,000.00, to pay for the services to be rendered during the additional

extended term (the "First Amendment").

Except as specifically described above, all terms and conditions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

The goals and objectives of this agreement, as amended are to continue to provide victims of domestic violence and their children services such as crisis intervention, emotional support and life skills necessary to promote long-term financial self-sufficiency. Domestic violence liaisons/counselors will develop safety plans that will help avert the need for foster care placements and their associated costs. The services will provide for the health, safety and protection of children and victims of domestic violence. The ability to provide these services will decrease the risk of the development of severe emotional disorders or negative behaviors which may put others at risk of physical harm. In addition, under the proposed agreement, four domestic violence liaisons/counselors will be located in the County District Offices and a floater liaison/counselor will be available for CPS/domestic violence case coverage as needed anywhere in the County of Westchester.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health as the continued services provided by My Sisters' Place assist victims of domestic violence and their children with crisis intervention and emotional support. Children in the families that experience domestic violence are at risk of developing severe emotional disorders or adopting behaviors which may put others at risk of physical harm. Early intervention can avert the risks posed to children and victims of domestic violence. The domestic violence services provided by My Sisters' Place help to decrease the risks associated with exposure to domestic violence.

The goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety as they are aimed at the safety and well-being of the children and families of Westchester County. The program under this agreement will continue to provide supportive services that allow families that experience domestic violence to seek lives free of violence and achieve the legal authority to protect their children and themselves from recurrent violence. My Sisters' Place also provides services that assist victims of domestic violence in establishing stable and secure households independent of their abusers. Additionally, My Sisters' Place seeks to make the families safe whenever possible by using legal interventions, family, and community resources.

The goals and objectives of this agreement, as amended, are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility in that the Department will be able to diminish the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County and its taxpayers.

The procurement for these services are exempt from the application of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a)xiv as the agreement

is for the purposes of providing aid, care and support to persons in need of public assistance.

It should be noted that this agreement, as amended, is also 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 Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authority to amend the agreement with My Sisters' Place for the aforesaid purpose.

An appropriate resolution requesting your Honorable Board's approval is attached herewith.

LGT/cmc
Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 01/16/2025 - RAYMOND SULKY, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is authorized to amend an agreement (DSS6020-24) with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("My Sisters' Place") for the purpose of providing advocacy and support services to children and victims of domestic violence, for the period from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, for an amount not to exceed \$586,000, to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget, in order to (i) extend the term thereof by three (3) months, from January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025, and (ii) increase the not to exceed amount of the Agreement by \$147,000.00, to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further.

RESOLVED, that except as specifically amended hereby, all terms and conditions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this agreement, as amended, 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 hereby authorized to take such action and execute such documents as may be necessary and proper to effectuate the purposes hereof.

1. Account to be Charged/Credited:

Fund	Dept.	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	22	8900	5960		\$147,000.00

2. Budget Funding Year(s): 2025
 Start Date: January 1, 2025 End Date: March 31, 2025
 (must match resolution)

3. Funding Source:

Federal	26%	CFDA#(s)	93.667		
State	36%	State ID#(s)	N/A		
Operating/ Tax Levy	38%				
Capital	N/A				

4. Total NTE: \$147,000.00
 (Must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACTS
 2025 - RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY