

**ONBASE # 109828**

DATE: October 4, 2024

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Joseph K. Spano  
Commissioner of Correction

RE: Request for authority for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with St. John's Riverside Hospital to operate a violence prevention program known as the "Resolve to Stop the Violence" Program for selected jail residents in the custody of the Westchester County Department of Correction, for a term commencing January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, in amount not to exceed \$394,295.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget

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Authority is requested for the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Correction ("DOC"), to enter into an agreement ("Agreement") with St. John's Riverside Hospital ("St. John's") to operate a violence prevention program known as the "Resolve to Stop the Violence" Program ("RSVP Program") for selected jail residents in the DOC's custody, for a term January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$394,295.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget.

The RSVP Program is based on a "restorative justice" model that has been successfully implemented at the San Francisco County Jail. St. John's has successfully implemented and operated the RSVP Program since its inception on May 19, 2008. St. John's model will include the *Manalive* violence prevention component and a survivor (victim) component. St. John's proposes to enhance the model by including concurrent substance use disorder services utilizing principles and practice of its Solutions program. As such, St. John's Counselor/Facilitator staff will be cross trained in violence prevention and addiction treatment, and St. John's expects a percentage to be NYS Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors. St. John's also proposes that jail residents with mental health histories and/or those currently taking psychotropic medications be considered for RSVP Program participation if acceptable criteria/guidelines can be agreed to with DOC. The services are comprehensive and individualized and detailed in the participants discharge plan. Finally, St. John's proposes the inclusion of program graduates to assume internship within the community center component of the program to provide group facilitation or outreach responsibilities.

The goals & objectives of the RSVP Program are to address the unique treatment needs of males that have a violent behavior history, are chemically dependent and incarcerated at the Westchester County Department of Correction's jail ("County's Jail"). The RSVP Program is a

crime – victim driven program. It is a violence cessation program that reaches out to perpetrators with the goals of providing:

- Ongoing recruitment and training of qualified program staff to implement the continuing operation of a 44 resident program. This will include violence intervention training as well as victim impact component.
- Jail resident learning of the tools and strategies necessary to understand the roots of their violent behavior and its impact on themselves, victims and the community.
- Provision of quality substance abuse disorder treatment services with recognition of the linkage between substance abuse disorder and violence.
- Improved conduct and program participation while a resident at the County's Jail.
- Successful transition to community and reduction in risk for relapse and recidivism due to violent behavior and substance use. Availability of community center component upon discharge.

Quarterly program evaluations and an annual report will be completed to determine the RSVP Program's effectiveness and the achievement of stated goals and objectives.

St. John's will also use the following subcontractor in performing these services:

Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., a/k/a WestCOP  
Victim Assistance Services  
2269 Saw Mill River Road  
Elmsford, NY 10523  
(Victim impact panel sessions)

**Impact:**

The RSVP Program is a Restorative Justice Model of violence intervention based on the principle that crime is an offense against the community, not simply a violation against the state, and creates an obligation to make things right. Offenders in this program learn how to avoid violence and are given the opportunity to understand and take responsibility for the harm done. Violent offenders incarcerated at the County's Jail participate in a targeted intervention program that will identify and address the root causes of violence. They will learn how to break the cycle of violence which leads to future arrests and incarcerations. The RSVP Program's methodology incorporates offender accountability and community involvement to reduce recidivism and to responsibly return ex-offenders to their communities, and prevent further violence. Jail residents will also learn to use their hands on experience to become community advocates at different levels of opportunity in their life, at home and in their neighborhood, leading to the restoration of perpetrator, victim and community.

**Evaluation:**

Evaluation of the RSVP Program's effectiveness is summarized as follows:

Violent offenders with broadly defined violent charges such as assault, domestic violence, armed robbery, rape and murder or have cases pending for violent offenses are mandated to the RSVP Program.

The RSVP Program is located in an all-male 44-bed direct supervision cell-block. The RSVP Program consists of peer re-education classes (*Manalive curriculum*), group discussions, academic classes, role-playing, counseling sessions, substance abuse treatment services and discussions with victims/survivors of violence.

In the past 12 months:

- 122   jail residents were admitted to the Resolve to Stop Violence Program
- 80   jail residents successfully completed the program
- 38   jail Referrals were made to the RSVP Program

The RSVP Program will have a positive financial and public safety impact on the County and its communities.

This Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to sections 3(a)(viii) and 3(a)(xvii) thereof.

Accordingly, I recommend adoption of the annexed Resolution.

JKP/mz  
Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/11/2024 - RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY

**RESOLUTION**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is authorized to enter into an agreement (“Agreement”) with St. John’s Riverside Hospital (“St. John’s”) to operate a violence prevention program known as the “Resolve to Stop the Violence” Program for selected jail residents in the custody of the Westchester County Department of Correction, for the term from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for an aggregate amount not to exceed \$394,295.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that St. John’s is authorized to use the following subcontractor in performing these services:

Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., a/k/a WestCOP  
 Victim Assistance Services  
 2269 Saw Mill River Road  
 Elmsford, NY 10523  
 (Victim impact panel sessions)

**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 St. John’s, then St. John’s shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his/her 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
101	35	1000	4230		\$325,650
711	35	011X	4230	T011	\$68,645

Budget Funding Year(s) 2025 Start Date 01.01.2025 End Date: 12.31.2025

(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars \$325,650

State Aid \_\_\_\_\_

\$394,295.00

Federal Aid \_\_\_\_\_

(must match resolution) Other           (Inmate trust fund)           \$68,645           

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/12/2024 - RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY