



Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive

Department of Correction

Joseph K. Spano
Commissioner

ONBASE # 113680

DATE: May 11, 2026

TO: Westchester County Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM Joseph K. Spano
Commissioner, Department of Correction

RE: Authority for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with St. John's Riverside Hospital for the provision of the "Resolve to Stop the Violence" Program, a violence prevention program for selected County jail residents in the County Department of Correction's custody, for a term commencing retroactively on January 1, 2026 and continuing through December 31, 2026, for an amount not to exceed \$362,080.00.

Authority is respectfully requested from your Honorable Board for the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Correction ("DOC"), to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with St. John's Riverside Hospital ("St. John's") for the provision of the "Resolve to Stop the Violence" Program ("RSVP Program"), a violence prevention program for selected County jail (the "County Jail") residents in DOC's custody, for a term commencing retroactively on January 1, 2026 and continuing through December 31, 2026, for an amount not to exceed \$362,080.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations.

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 County 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 and 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 County 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 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.
- All participants will receive a comprehensive discharge plan for continued support in the community.

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 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 offenders to their communities, and prevent further violence. County 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 the 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:

- 100 County Jail residents were admitted to the RSVP Program.
- 79 County Jail residents successfully completed the RSVP Program.
- 130 County 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.

The proposed Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures (the "Policy") pursuant to Sections 3(a)(viii) thereof, which exempts from procurement "contracts for medical or health-related services and contracts with healthcare workers, or agencies engaging healthcare workers." The proposed Agreement is also exempt from the Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xvii) thereof, which exempts "any procurement for the purpose of entering into a contract or contracts with persons to provide care, treatment, counseling, referral or rehabilitative or preventative services to individuals with mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and those experiencing addiction and/or substance abuse."

Accordingly, I respectfully recommend your Honorable Board's approval of the annexed Resolution.

JKS/KM/mcz
Attachment

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Correction (“DOC”), is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement (“Agreement”) with St. John’s Riverside Hospital (“St. John’s”) for the provision of the “Resolve to Stop the Violence” Program, a violence prevention program for selected County jail residents in DOC’s custody, for a term commencing retroactively on January 1, 2026 and continuing through December 31, 2026, for an amount not to exceed \$362,080.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Agreement shall be subject to County appropriations; 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 and empowered to execute and deliver any instruments and take any and all actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	35	1000	4380		\$362,080.00

Budget Funding Year(s) 2026 Start Date 01.01.2026 End Date: 12.31.2026
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars \$362,080.00
State Aid _____
\$362,080.00 Federal Aid _____
(must match resolution) Other _____

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 05/21/2026 - RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY