



George Latimer, County Executive
Leonard G. Townes, Commissioner
Department of Social Services

110060

DATE: November 26, 2024

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 enter into an agreement with Neighbors Link Corp. to provide a Youth Police Initiative training program that equips both DSS employees and local police departments with the cultural awareness skills needed to best serve Westchester residents, for the period from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester ("County") acting by and through its Department of Social Services ("the Department") to enter into an agreement (DSS6032-25) with Neighbors Link Corp. ("Neighbors Link") to provide a Youth Police Initiative training program that equips both DSS employees and local police departments with the cultural awareness skills needed to best serve Westchester residents. Neighbors Link would impart these employees and police officers with knowledge and skills they'll need to navigate complex situations involving themselves and the families and residents of Westchester, as well as prepare them for further training that builds upon the skills they'll develop here. This agreement will be for the period from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The training would pair 12 DSS staff with 8 police officers for several multi-hour sessions, where commonalities between their work and a consensus on their mutual goals would be drawn.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement will serve a public purpose by increasing the awareness and knowledge of standard protocol for both local police and DSS employees, which should diminish the likelihood of concerns or problems in the functioning of either.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety because the services provided through this contract will reduce the chances of animosity forming between DSS employees, local police departments, and/or Westchester residents, thereby reducing the chances of harm to them all. Through the expansion of knowledge and empathy, the training would help these groups come to a better understanding about the workings of the other(s); this degree of rapport has historically served to prevent problems in the functioning of multiple parties.

The goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility in that the Department is able to achieve cost savings when staff and local police forces are properly equipped with the wherewithal to navigate complex situations involving themselves and the families and residents of Westchester. This will result in substantial savings for the County and its taxpayers.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a) ix.

It should be noted that this agreement is 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 enter into an agreement with Neighbors Link Corp. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITIONS CONTRACT #192024 - RAYMOND SUDSKI 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 enter into an agreement (DSS6032-25) with Neighbors Link Corp. ("Neighbors Link") to provide a Youth Police Initiative training program that equips both DSS employees and local police departments with the cultural awareness skills needed to best serve Westchester residents, for the period from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025 for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

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 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.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION'S CONTRACT #1430204 - RAYMOND S. SCHEIDT, SECRETARY

1. Account to be Charged/Credited:

Fund	Dept.	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	22	8900	5960		50,000.00

2. Budget Funding Year(s): 2025

Start Date: January 1, 2025 End Date: December 31, 2025
 (must match resolution)

3. Funding Source:

Federal	35%	CFDA#(s)	93.667		
State	30%	State ID#(s)			
Operating/Tax Levy	35%				
Capital	N/A				

4. Total NTE: \$50,000.00

(must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION
 1/19/2025 RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY