

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER  
BOARD OF ACQUISITION AND CONTRACT  
HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012 AT 11:00 A.M.**

County Executive  
Chairman, Board of Legislators  
Comm. - Public Works & Transportation  
Deputy County Executive  
Deputy County Attorney  
County Executive's Office  
CIO – Information Technology  
Budget  
Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Finance  
Board of Legislators  
Board of Legislators  
Secretary BAC  
Assistant Secretary BAC

Robert P. Astorino  
Ken Jenkins  
Jay Pisco  
Kevin Plunkett  
Jim Robertson  
Christine Sculti  
Marguerite Beirne  
Patricia Haggerty  
Mario Arena  
Anne Reasoner  
Larry Goldstein  
JoMary Vieira  
Joan Cocciardi

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**Mr. Astorino presided.**

**Mr. Astorino said, "Before we begin the meeting, has the Secretary checked the reception area to make sure that all members of the public who wish to attend this meeting have been invited into this conference room?"**

**Ms. Vieira confirmed that she had done so.**

**Mr. Jenkins said, "One point of order, we would like to put on the record again our provision of Chapter 161 for an acting member to be part of this Board. Welcome Mr. Pisco. On our other two items #4 (23171) and #5 (23201) we did get initial information back from Ms. Sculti regarding the provision of the Act that the Board passed in December regarding the Rapid Re-Housing that requires a RFP be done for those particular items. We will be severing those two items. We held them over for additional research to be done."**

**Mr. Astorino said, "I have no problem if you want to table them until the following meeting if you wish."**

**Mr. Jenkins said, "That would be fine."**

**Acquisition & Contract.** Minutes of the meeting of 1/19/12 and the SEQR Review for agenda items.

J. Vieira

**Mr. Astorino moved to receive and file the foregoing minutes and SEQR review, which were duly seconded and approved.**

1. (23881) **Information Technology** - Amend Contract (IT-776) with AssetWorks, Inc., Wayne, PA, for hardware and software support costs as well as software upgrade costs of the Fleet Management System utilized by Department of Public Works and Transportation, by extending the expiration date to 12/31/12, and by increasing the amount \$24,035, for a new total not to exceed amount of \$388,098.

Beirne/Lauro

**Held Over by The Board of Legislators – 1/19/12**

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

2. (23931) **Planning** - Amend the agreement with the Community Environmental Center to provide energy audits, training and technical services that will assist in the provision of energy efficient improvements to multifamily rental buildings, by changing the expiration date from 12/31/11 to 3/31/12.

E. Buroughs

**Held Over by The Board of Legislators – 1/19/12**

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

3. (23933) **Planning** - Enter into an agreement with the Village of Elmsford, through the Community Development Block Grant Program, for a downtown Elmsford Streetscape project, from 1/1/12 – 12/31/12, in the amount of \$200,000.

E. Buroughs

**Held Over by The Board of Legislators – 1/19/12**

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

4. (23171) **Social Services – TABLED UNTIL NEXT A&C MEETING.** Request authority to enter into an agreement with Interfaith Council for Action, Inc., for the purpose of operating scattered site transitional housing units and providing case management and supportive services to families transitioning to permanent housing, from 1/1/12 – 12/31/12, for an amount not to exceed \$421,914.

K. McGuire

**Held Over by The County Executive – 1/19/12**

5. (23201) **Social Services – TABLED UNTIL NEXT A&C MEETING.** Request authority to enter into an agreement with Community Housing Innovations, Inc., to manage and operate scattered site transitional housing units for homeless families, from 1/1/12 – 12/31/12, for an amount not to exceed \$1,346,017.

K. McGuire

**Held Over by The County Executive – 1/19/12**

6. (23992) **Health** - Enter into contract to accept continued funding from the New York State Department of Health, for the Community-Based Facilitated Enrollment Program Grant, from 1/1/12 – 12/31/12, in the not to exceed amount of \$330,000.

S. Amler

**Held Over by The Board of Legislators – 1/19/12**

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

7. (24030) **Parks** - Enter into a license agreement with AAO Enterprises, Inc., Putnam Valley, NY, for the operation of the food and refreshment concession at Mohansic Golf Course, Yorktown Heights, from 1/20/12 – 12/31/16, under the listed terms and conditions.

K. O'Connor

**Held Over by The Board of Legislators – 1/19/12**

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

8. (23559) **DPW/Transportation** - Amend a license agreement with Airport Mart, Inc., for space in the Terminal Building at the Westchester County Airport, to permit the Licensee to occupy an additional 300 square feet of space, for an additional license fee of \$18,900 annually, to operate a full service Dunkin Donuts franchise from the Terminal Building, under the listed terms and conditions.

Lauro/Mahon

**Held Over by The Board of Legislators – 1/19/12**

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

9. (24108) **County Executive – WITHDRAWN BY ADMINISTRATION.** Request authority to enter into an agreement with the Westchester County Industrial Development Agency, for a one year period commencing on 1/1/12, whereby the County will provide office space, personnel and support services to the WIDA and for which WIDA shall pay the County an amount not to exceed \$976,908 in accordance with the listed schedule.

R. Astorino

10. (24128) **County Executive** - Execute an amendment to a New York State Environmental Restoration Program State Assistance Contract, for the investigation and remediation of environmental conditions at Davids Island, by extending the termination date from 12/30/11 to 12/30/12.

R. Astorino

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

11. (24129) **CE/Office for the Disabled** – Pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures, to exempt from procurement agreements with various sign language interpreters for the provision of sign language interpretation services.

E. Latainer

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

12. (24130) **CE/Office for the Disabled** – Enter into agreements with various sign language interpreters, from 1/1/12 – 12/31/12, in a total aggregate amount not to exceed \$127,370.

E. Latainer

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

13. (24143) **Planning** - Execute an amendment to the agreement with the Housing Action Council, Inc., in order to increase the dollar amount an additional \$58,550, for a new total amount of \$423,550 and change the expiration date from 12/31/11 to 6/24/12.

E. Buroughs

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

14. (24311) **Planning –1)** Enter into an IMA with the Towns of Bedford, Cortlandt, Lewisboro, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge, Somers, Yorktown and the Village of Mount Kisco in order to distribute funds from East of Hudson Water Quality Investment Program Funds, (the “EOH funds”), for an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000, commencing upon execution and terminating five (5) years thereafter; and **2)** Enter into an agreement with the East of Hudson Watershed Corporation, whereby any remaining EOH funds would be disbursed to the Corporation and the Corporation would assume all the County’s and the Municipalities’ rights and responsibilities under the IMA.

E. Buroughs

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

15. (24101) **Health** - Enter into contracts with the listed Community-Based Facilitated Enrollment agencies and consultants, from 1/1/12 – 12/31/12, for a total aggregate not to exceed amount of \$172,972, under the listed terms and conditions.

S. Amler

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

16. (24075) **Probation** - Enter into an agreement with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Hartsdale, for the provision of pre-dispositional risk assessment and post-dispositional treatment of Family Court Act, Article 3, juvenile delinquency sex offenders and pre- and post-sentence risk assessment and treatment for adolescent sex offenders ages 14 through 17 appearing before the criminal court as juvenile offenders, youthful offenders or young adults, from 1/1/12 – 12/31/12, at a cost not to exceed \$80,813.

R. Pozzi

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

17. (24179) **Parks** - Advertise for bids for Armored Car Receipts Pick-up and Deposit Service, for various Parks, Recreation and Conservation Facilities.

K. O’Connor

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

18. (24003) **DPW/Transportation** – Contract No. 10-566-Rev., with Monpat Construction, Inc., (MBE), for Roofing Replacement, Jail Annex and Radio Tower Building, Norwood E. Jackson Correctional Center, Valhalla Campus, Valhalla, New York. Approved Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$150,000.

T. Lauro

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

19. (24172) **DPW/Transportation - 1)** Enter into a grant agreement with the State of New York Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee for the purpose of administering the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program, in the amount of \$117,000, from 10/1/11 – 9/30/12; and **2)** Enter into IMA’s with 42 municipalities for the term of five years, from 10/1/11 – 9/30/16, to conduct traffic safety enforcement campaigns. (Agreement No. 11-931)

T. Lauro

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**

20. (24174) **DPW/Transportation** – Contract No. 12-202, Service Contract for Plumbing Repairs, Various Locations, Westchester County. Advertise for bids.

T. Lauro

**Mr. Astorino moved the resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.**


This meeting was recorded and an electronic copy of the minutes is on file with the Board of Acquisition and Contract.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned. All approved resolutions are on file electronically with the Board of Acquisition and Contract.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JoMary Vieira, Secretary

I have reviewed the foregoing minutes and have found them to be correct as written.

Dated 1/27/12

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JoMary Vieira, Secretary

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS  
THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

Your Committee recommends the adoption of an Act which, if approved by your Honorable Board, would establish a County policy to assist homeless individuals and families and prevent homelessness. Your Committee believes that adoption of a County policy to reduce and prevent homelessness is necessary to define County programs, organize County services, prioritize County approaches, and underscore the importance of the County's role in reducing homelessness.

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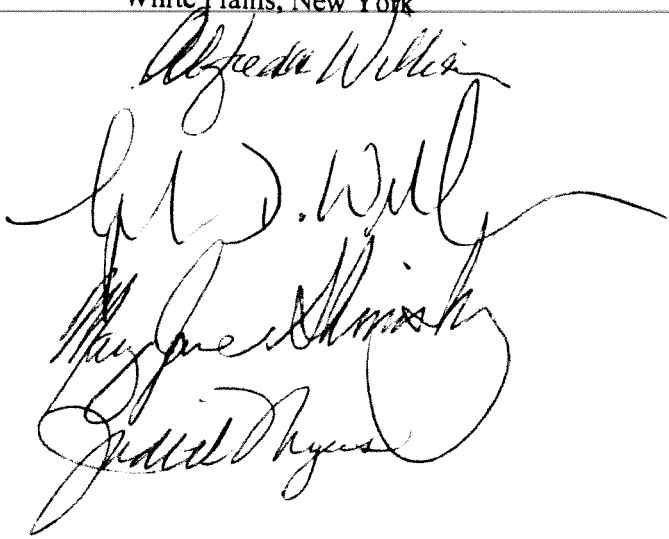
The Committee on Community Services has heard testimony from the Department of Social Services on the status of homelessness in the County, the needs of those who are homeless or close to becoming homeless, and the effectiveness of present County homeless assistance programs. This Committee has also received input from non-profit organizations that provide housing and services to the homeless population. Based on such input, your Committee submits the attached policy as the recommended County policy to assist homeless individuals and families and prevent homelessness, along with adopting legislation.

As you know, this Honorable Board must comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and its implementing regulations, *see* Title 6, Part 617 of the New York Code Rules and Regulations (NYCRR). Your Committee finds that this Act does not "change the use, appearance or condition of any natural resource or structure," or otherwise affect the environment, with respect to the SEQRA. Accordingly, your Committee

concludes that this does not constitute an action as defined in Section 617.2(b) of 6 NYCRR part 617 and that no further environmental review is required.

An affirmative vote of a majority of the voting strength of the Board is required for approval of the attached Act. After careful consideration, your Committee recommends the adoption of this Act.

Dated: December 1, 2011  
White Plains, New York



7 COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES

# FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Policy to Assist Homeless Individuals & Families

NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

## OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

(To be completed by operating department and reviewed by Budget Department)

A)  GENERAL FUND     AIRPORT     SPECIAL REVENUE FUND (Districts)

### B) EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Cost    \$ 0

Total Current Year Revenue    \$ 0

Source of Funds (check one):     Current Appropriations

Transfer of Existing Appropriations     Additional Appropriations     Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: \_\_\_\_\_

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses:    Annual Amount \$ 0

Describe: Establish a County policy to assist homeless individuals and families and prevent homelessness.

Potential Related Revenues:    Annual Amount \$ 0

Describe: N/A

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year:    N/A

Next Four years: N/A

Prepared by: Mark Medwid

Title:    Sr. Budget Analyst

Department: Budget

Reviewed By: 

James C. Saly  
Budget Director

11/30/11

If you need more space, please attach additional sheets.

**ACT No. \_\_\_ - 2011**

**AN ACT** adopting a County policy to assist homeless individuals and families and prevent homelessness.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester as follows:

**Section 1.** The attached policy submitted by the County Board Committee on Community Services is adopted as the policy of the County of Westchester to assist homeless individuals and families and prevent homelessness.

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§ 2. This Act shall take effect immediately.

# Westchester County Policy to Assist Homeless Individuals and Families and Prevent Homelessness

## **1. Introduction / Legislative Intent**

The Westchester County Board of Legislators recognizes the many negative impacts that homelessness brings to adults, children, families and society as a whole. The causes of homelessness can vary to include financial, employment, domestic, health and societal factors. Indeed, homelessness can originate from factors seemingly beyond the control of the individual and family. Notwithstanding these factors, each person maintains responsibility for the well-being of themselves and their families within their means and capabilities.

While Westchester County has made significant progress during the last two decades in housing and assisting the homeless population, the County continues to face present challenges in assisting homeless individuals and families. Such challenges include the current national recession, with its many aspects and implications in our region, including available fair and affordable housing, employment, changing industries and needs, and ancillary social services (e.g., child care, training). Newer homeless populations include previous homeowners, skilled workers, and individuals that previously enjoyed a stable employment outlook.

The Board of Legislators is encouraged by the progress already achieved within the County to reduce homelessness. In addition, newer programs and approaches, such as rapid re-housing, have received favorable support from the federal and state governments. In turn, the County has capable service providers that have helped to implement these newer approaches.

To help address the current needs of the County's homeless individuals and families, the Board of Legislators sets forth this policy for Westchester County to identify effective programs, organize County services, prioritize County approaches, and underscore the importance of the County's role in reducing homelessness.

## **2. Background – Previous/Current County Homeless Facilities**

Following the homelessness crisis in the mid-1980s, the County obtained or leased several facilities for housing homeless adults and families. These shelters varied from a 'drop-in' facility with few or no other services to other facilities with more services. These facilities include the Volunteers of America (VOA) facilities at the County Grassland campus, the WestHELP facility in Greenburgh, and the Coachman Hotel in White Plains. The County also leased space at motels to provide temporary housing with no additional on-site services. More recently, the County has specially contracted with service providers to house homeless women that are pregnant or with children.

With the advent of the federal Emergency Housing Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (EPRP), the County has housed homeless adults and families in a new manner, called rapid-rehousing, emergency housing units (EHUs), or "E-HAB". The rapid re-housing approach strives to quickly house homeless adults and families in their communities, with their prompt return to a permanent living scenario. Several service providers in the County currently contract with the County and building owners (e.g., landlords) to place homeless adults and families in the EHU units.

## **Westchester County Policy to Assist Homeless Individuals and Families and Prevent Homelessness**

### **3. Applicable Laws and Regulations – Federal, State, Local**

Federal legislation addressing homelessness includes the HEARTH Act and the McKinney-Vento Act. See HEARTH Act ; Helping Families Save their Homes Act of 2009. Social service districts in New York are required to meet minimum standards for shelter facilities that house homeless children and adults. See, e.g., 18 NYCRR Part 491, Shelter for Adults; 18 NYCRR 900, Shelter for Families. Presently, there are no County statutes or regulations that require housing for homeless individuals or families.

### **4. County Organization / Administration**

The County currently has several departments and offices that administer programs which directly or indirectly assist the homeless population. As further described below, such departments and offices include the Department of Social Services, Department of Planning, the Department of Community Mental Health, the Department of Senior Programs and Services, and the Office for Women.

Department of Social Services (DSS) – Historically and currently, DSS exercises the most direct County role in administering services to reduce homelessness. DSS contracts with service providers to operate several shelters, such as the VOA homeless shelter, the Coachman Hotel, the OASIS facility and others. Similar to other DSS programs, DSS case workers assist homeless individuals and families through counseling and monitoring. DSS counseling may be on-site at the facility or at DSS district offices. DSS administers the Rental Assistance Program (RAP), which provides subsidies or supplements to aid eligible individuals and families in maintaining rentals. DSS administers emergency assistance to adults and to families that meet certain criteria. DSS also assists adults in locating and securing long-term residential care at adult homes.

Department of Planning (DoP) – DoP administers the emergency shelter grant program (ESG), the Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA), the eviction prevention program, and the foreclosure prevention program. DoP contracts with service providers such as Westchester Residential Opportunities (WRO) to counsel individuals and families on foreclosure prevention. DoP had previously administered the Section 8 housing voucher program, but this program was recently transferred to New York State and is in litigation on appeal.

Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) – DCMH administers the Care Coordination Program to reduce hospitalizations, incarceration and homelessness. DCMH provides homeless outreach services for people with serious mental illness and co-occurring disorders, transitional case management to those released from jail or prison, and training of police officers to respond to individuals in crisis in the community. DCMH administers the County's Single Point of Entry (SPOE) and the Single Point of Return (SPOR) for children involved with residential placements.

## **Westchester County Policy to Assist Homeless Individuals and Families and Prevent Homelessness**

Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS) – DSPS helps older persons remain in the community, preferably in their own homes, by providing comprehensive housing assistance services, including housing locator, referrals, shared housing and reverse mortgage counseling.

Office for Women (OfW) –OfW is a centralized resource in county government to assist women and their families, providing liaison to numerous county departments and non-profit entities that provide housing assistance services.

### **5. Programs for Housing Homeless Individuals and Families and Reducing Homelessness**

The County will utilize a range of housing types, approaches, and programs to assist homeless adults and families. Additionally, the County will continue to administer and provide funds to prevent homelessness (e.g., rental supplements). The County will also continue to provide temporary shelters that are available to homeless individuals on a 'drop-in' basis. The County will also continue to provide transitional residences. These programs are listed below and further described in Appendix A.

- Rapid Re-Housing
- Transitional Residences
- Drop-in Temporary Shelters
- Rental Assistance Program
- Emergency Shelter Grants
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids
- Section 8 Housing Vouchers
- Eviction Prevention
- Foreclosure Prevention

#### **Rapid Re-Housing**

The County will prioritize housing families and individuals using rapid re-housing or emergency housing units, as this approach offers the greatest potential to reduce homelessness for most individuals and families. The County will contract with service providers to provide emergency housing units and case-management services.

*Administration:* DSS will administer the rapid re-housing contracts. DSS will coordinate with other county departments and offices to obtain referrals on potential individuals and families. DSS will identify the rapid re-housing program costs in its annual budget.

*Program Services:* The service provider will perform an array of rapid re-housing services which conform to criteria of the HUD Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) program for housing relocation and stabilization. Such services include case management, outreach and engagement, housing search and placement, legal services, and credit repair. For further detail of program components, see HUD HPRP regulations and guidance.

**Westchester County Policy to Assist Homeless Individuals and Families and Prevent Homelessness**

*Procurement:* The County will solicit proposals through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. DSS will develop and issue the RFP. DSS will allow opportunity for the Board of Legislators and the Community Services Committee to informally comment on the RFP prior to RFP issuance.

*Location:* Rapid re-housing will be available in the County and organized by both sub-regions and urban centers. There may be flexibility across sub-regions for housing placements. The objective is to house individuals and families as close to their communities as possible.

*Quantity:* The rapid re-housing program will include a minimum number of emergency housing units as identified in the schedule below.

| Type / Occupant | No. of Units |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Individual      | 70           |
| Family          | 154          |

*Board of Legislators:* The Board of Legislators will approve appropriations for emergency housing units as part of the annual budget for DSS.

On a quarterly basis, DSS will provide the Board of Legislators with a report describing the number of occupied and available emergency housing units. The report will provide the total number of units, location, service provider, and available services.

DSS will be available to the Community Services Committee upon reasonable request to discuss the implementation and status of the rapid re-housing program.

**6. Ancillary County Services for Homeless Population**

The County will continue to provide ancillary services to assist homeless individuals and families. Ancillary services include health counseling, employment counseling, case-management, and/or other appropriate services.

**7. Funding**

The County will fund programs to house homeless individuals and families and prevent homelessness using grants, property tax levy, charitable donations, and partnerships with non-profit agencies.

The County will pursue federal and state grant opportunities to help fund its homeless programs. Grant opportunities with at least a 50% County match will be pursued, unless DSS determines there is a compelling reason not to apply for the grants. Compelling reasons include lack of personnel to administer grant funds and low possibility of grant award.

## **Westchester County Policy to Assist Homeless Individuals and Families and Prevent Homelessness**

The County will seek to leverage funds from philanthropic sources or service providers. The County will evaluate partnership opportunities with non-profit organizations to assist in funding homeless programs.

The County will utilize funds from property tax levy, as annually appropriated. Unless otherwise approved by the Board of Legislators, and subject to state and federal appropriations, the following programs will continue to be funded each year:

- Rapid Re-Housing Program
- Transitional Residences
- Drop-In Shelters
- Emergency Shelter Grants
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids
- Section 8 Housing Vouchers

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- Eviction Prevention
- Foreclosure Prevention

### **8. Priority of Needs**

The County homeless policy incorporates a range of approaches to prevent or reduce homelessness. Allocating County staff and funds among approaches that prevent homelessness from occurring and that mitigate existing homeless populations will require a balancing of considerations. Nevertheless, the County's approaches shall be prioritized to address most urgent needs first, which are considered to include the following:

- Individuals or families with mental or physical disabilities that require continuous care
- Single parent families
- Pregnant women
- Minors without parents

### **9. Policy Review**

The County will continually monitor the implementation of the above programs to assist homeless individuals and families. Each year, DSS shall provide a written semi-annual report on program implementation to the Board of Legislators, due at the end of June and end of December. DSS will also periodically meet with Board of Legislators committees to discuss program implementation.

The Board of Legislators will review this homeless policy after two years. In evaluating the effectiveness of the homeless policy and programs, the Board of Legislators shall solicit and receive input from DSS, the County Executive's office, municipalities, New York OTDA, service providers, interested local organizations, and any other sources.

**Westchester County Policy to Assist Homeless Individuals and Families and Prevent Homelessness**

After 2 years and six months, the Board of Legislators shall vote to either: (i) continue the policy, (ii) continue the policy with modification, or (iii) terminate the policy.

**10. Separability**

If any of the above programs are invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the other programs shall continue to be funded and implemented, subject to federal, state and county appropriations.

**11. Effective Date**

This County homeless policy shall take effect immediately.

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**Westchester County Policy to Assist Homeless Individuals and Families and Prevent Homelessness**

**APPENDIX A**

**Westchester County Programs to Aid Homeless Individuals and Families and Prevent Homelessness**

Rapid Re-Housing - The goal of Rapid Re-Housing is to help homeless families and individuals obtain permanent housing and stabilize relatively quickly—in months rather than years. Rapid Re-Housing is targeted to people who are homeless but have lived independently in permanent housing at some point in time, for some period of time. Some will have disabilities; but most will not. Most homeless households do not need permanent supports to remain in housing.

Rapid Re-Housing is for *“individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness (residing in emergency or transitional shelters or on the street) and need temporary assistance in order to obtain housing and retain it”* (HUD Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) Notice, March 19, 2009).

Rapid Re-Housing is a successful community strategy for ending homelessness. The intent is to minimize the length of time an individual or family remains in the limbo of homelessness and to help the household quickly re-establish stability. In the safety and predictability of permanent housing, they are encouraged to choose how, when and where they will address other life problems or goals using mainstream resources. Rapid Re-Housing resolves the crisis of homelessness; the rest is up to the individual or family—and their community support systems.

The County received a grant allocation of \$2,373,791 under the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to dedicate funds for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities including short-term or medium-term rental assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services, mediation, credit counseling, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving costs, case management, or other appropriate activities for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing of persons that have become homeless or will become homeless. Remaining HPRP funds will be available during Program Year 2011.

Sources: [http://endhomelessness.org/files/2450\\_file\\_Rapid\\_Re\\_Housing\\_Guide\\_July\\_2009.pdf](http://endhomelessness.org/files/2450_file_Rapid_Re_Housing_Guide_July_2009.pdf) [p. 4,5,7]; <http://planning.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/fy2011actionplanfinal.pdf> [p. 12]

Transitional Residences – Transitional housing is designed to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. The supportive services may be provided by the organization managing the housing or coordinated by them and provided by other public or private agencies. As described in the FY 2011 Urban County Consortium Action Plan, transitional housing available in the County include the following facilities:

- There are 93 scattered housing units in Westchester County being funded under the Continuum of Care’s Shelter plus Care Program. These sites provide approximately 372 beds year round for households with children. The County contracts with several agencies to administer these housing units.

## Westchester County Policy to Assist Homeless Individuals and Families and Prevent Homelessness

- There are three specific housing units that have a total of 258 of housing units for single females and households with children and households with children with approximately 1,032 beds year round. It is expected that one site will be closing during 2011. This site includes 112 transitional housing units with 448 beds for single females and households with children.
- There are 15 beds available for singles' males and females, 26 beds for single females, 69 beds for single males and 12 beds for youth males and females (under 18 years old).

Source: <http://planning.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/fy2011actionplanfinal.pdf> [p. 35]

Emergency Shelters – Emergency shelters are designed to provide immediate shelter as safe and decent alternatives to the streets. As described in the FY 2011 Urban County Consortium Action Plan, emergency shelters available in the County include the following facilities:

- There are two overnight/drop-in shelters containing 49 beds for single males and females.
- There are six seasonal warming sites that can accommodate 67 individuals of which 40 beds are available for single males and females, four (4) beds for single females and 23 beds for single males on a nightly basis.
- There is a 149-bed, 24-hour emergency shelter for homeless men and women, and childless couples. This agency provides support and assistance including help in obtaining rehabilitative services from outside providers. Case management plans are individualized for each person to help them achieve self-sufficiency, integration into the community, and ultimately in permanent housing.
- There are five (5) non-profit organizations operating 173 beds of which 76 beds are available for homeless single males and females, 57 beds for single males, 19 beds for single females and 21 beds for homeless families.
- The Valhalla Residence has 19 beds for frail homeless males and females that receive 24- hour care and comprehensive support services to medically frail homeless men and women with complications resulting from substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and other serious health conditions. Case management service plans include finding stable, independent housing.
- There are three domestic violence shelters that provide safe haven for women and their families that have a total of 92 beds, and there is a 24-hour hot line for information and referrals.
- There is one youth shelter for homeless and runaway youth under the age of 18 that has 14 beds available for emergency housing with extensive supportive services.

Source: <http://planning.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/fy2011actionplanfinal.pdf> [p. 34]

Rental Assistance Program - The Rental Assistance Program (RAP) helps homeless families and singles transition from Public Assistance (PA) and to prevent non-PA families and singles from needing assistance by subsidizing their rent. Eligible families and singles contribute no more than 35 percent of income towards rent. They must be put on a Section 8 waiting list and are expected to transition to Section 8 housing within approximately one year. Any working family or single with income between 125 percent and 200 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines facing imminent risk of eviction due to non-payment of rent, or homeless working families or singles who would no longer need PA if they were permanently housed, may be eligible. Non-PA families and singles facing eviction for non-payment should apply for Emergency Assistance at the closest DSS office. District office staff will determine if a referral to RAP is appropriate.

## **Westchester County Policy to Assist Homeless Individuals and Families and Prevent Homelessness**

Homeless families and singles who currently receive assistance are referred by their case manager.

Source:

[http://socialservices.westchestergov.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=994&Itemid=1769](http://socialservices.westchestergov.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=994&Itemid=1769)

**Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)** - The Emergency Shelter Grant program awards grants for the rehabilitation, expansion, or conversion of buildings for use as homeless shelters. It is also used for shelter operating expenses, essential services (supportive services concerned with employment, health, drug abuse, and education), and homeless prevention activities (eviction prevention). Any properties directly assisted must be used as a homeless shelter for a specific period of time, in accordance with HUD requirements. Experienced non-profit agencies are eligible for funding. The amount provided from ESG grants must be matched dollar-for-dollar from non-ESG sources. Eligible customers must be homeless or at great risk of becoming immediately homeless to receive services from agencies receiving ESG funds. Customers should contact an ESG agency recipient for assistance.

Source: [http://homes.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/esg\\_guidelines.pdf](http://homes.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/esg_guidelines.pdf)

**Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA)** - HOPWA is a federally funded program to help fund rental assistance or rent subsidies and needed services. HOPWA assists eligible individuals and families who are currently living in their apartments and are threatened with the loss of their housing because more than 50% of their income goes to pay rent or have unstable and inappropriate living conditions for their illness. There are four HOPWA programs administered in Westchester County. Individuals may qualify for assistance from a local program, depending on where they live. The Westchester County HOPWA program administered by Grace Church Community Center in White Plains is available to all county residents. HOPWA is not an emergency program, and applicants may wait a considerable amount of time for assistance.

Source: [http://homes.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/hopwa\\_guidelinesrentasst.pdf](http://homes.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/hopwa_guidelinesrentasst.pdf)

**Section 8 Housing Vouchers** - Section 8 is a federal rental assistance program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) but is administered by local offices. There are 17 Section 8 program offices in Westchester County. Each office is an independent program with its own waiting list for assistance, program guidelines and areas of assistance. As of April 1, 2011, the Westchester Section 8 Program has been administered by CVR Associates. Because housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments. The participant is free to choose any housing that meets the requirement of the program and is not limited to units located in subsidized housing projects. The owner or landlord must agree to rent under the program. This unit may be the family's present residence. Rental units must meet minimum standards of health and safety, as determined by the Section 8 program administrators. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly by the Section 8 program administrator on behalf of the participating family. The family then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. Under certain circumstances, if authorized by the Section 8 program, a family may use its voucher to purchase a modest home. Section 8 is not an emergency assistance program and applicants may wait a considerable amount of time for assistance.

## **Westchester County Policy to Assist Homeless Individuals and Families and Prevent Homelessness**

Source: <http://homes.westchestergov.com/senior-housing/rental-assistance>

**Eviction Prevention** – Several supplements that DSS administers may be available to assist in preventing eviction. Temporary Shelter Supplement may be provided to recipients of Family Assistance, or families receiving Safety Net Assistance, subject to all its regulations. Emergency Assistance to Adults (EAA) benefits are available to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients who face emergency situations that endanger their health, safety or welfare.

Emergency benefits include financial help to prevent evictions and homelessness, emergency housing and payment for utilities and moving expenses. Emergency Assistance to Families (EAF) is a federal program for people dealing with crises and emergency situations beyond their control. Such situations include eviction, homelessness, heating fuel, utility disconnects, domestic violence and child care needs. To be eligible for EAF, either as part of an ongoing temporary assistance case or for one-time only assistance, certain criteria must be met:

- A child is without immediately accessible resources to meet his needs.
- ~~The family must have a child under age 18 or a child under age 19 who regularly attends secondary school.~~
- The child receiving EAF must be living with an eligible relative.
- A woman who has been medically verified as pregnant, but has no other children, may receive EAF if she is otherwise eligible for public assistance.

Source: <http://socialservices.westchestergov.com/temporary-assistance/emergency-assistance>  
<http://socialservices.westchestergov.com/family-assistance>

**Foreclosure Prevention** – Westchester County contracts with several not-for-profit organizations that provide counseling to assist homeowners facing foreclosure. These counselling agencies are certified by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide default and foreclosure counseling. They are experienced in helping people deal with lenders to prevent foreclosure.

Source: <http://homes.westchestergov.com/homeownership/keeping-your-home>  
[http://consumer.westchestergov.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2610&Itemid=4471](http://consumer.westchestergov.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2610&Itemid=4471)  
[http://www.chigrants.org/foreclosure\\_prevention.htm](http://www.chigrants.org/foreclosure_prevention.htm)