

**38597**

DATE: February 26, 2014

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Dr. Iris T. Pagan, Executive Director  
Westchester County Youth Bureau

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Westchester County to Conduct a Number of County-Wide Educational Programs

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Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester (the “County”) to enter into an agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Westchester County (“Cornell”) pursuant to which Cornell will conduct a number of county-wide educational programs, including various environmental, ecological and horticultural programs, to be held at the County’s Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, as well as various other locations, for the period from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 (the “Agreement”). In consideration for services to be rendered, the County will pay Cornell an amount not to exceed \$800,000.00, pursuant to an approved budget.

Cornell, with the assistance of the New York State Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Human Ecology and other units at Cornell University, conducts a number of county-wide educational programs, including programs held at the County’s Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center. The programs are offered through classes, clinics, conferences and workshops. Participants include youth and adults. The programs are open to both the general public and professionals. In addition, Cornell disseminates information through publications and networking with educators, health professionals and community agencies.

The outcomes that were established for the program across the four program components are:

- Out of 400 adults participating in our nutrition education and financial management programs, 80% or 320 will increase their knowledge of healthy food choices, nutrition labels, and financial resource management as it relates to food shopping practices as measured by pre-post tests.
- Out of 60 adults participating in our physical fitness programs, 80% or 48 will have a better understanding of obesity prevention strategies as measured by pre/post tests. A secondary outcome would be the reduction in preventable nutrition related diseases such as hypertension,

cardio-vascular disease, obesity and diabetes which are a direct cost to the taxpayer in Medicaid dollars.

- Out of over 60 youth participating in our 4-H clubs, 80% or 48 will learn the skills to plan, organize and present individual and group projects, become better citizens, and develop confidence and public speaking skills as measured by the number of civic contributions or community/volunteer activities while in 4-H.
- Out of 600 youth participating in our educational curriculum lessons, 80% or 480 will increase their knowledge of biological or environmental science as measured by educator observation or classroom teacher reporting.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension will help resolve county-wide environmental issues by providing clinical diagnoses to 100% of the cases brought to their attention as measured by CCE documentation. Diagnoses will include recommendations for best management practices.
- In 2014, Cornell Cooperative Extension will save taxpayers in Westchester County the equivalent of \$200,000 by receiving Master Gardener services of 5,000 hours which would otherwise conservatively cost at least \$39.99/hour (with benefits) if taxpayers and units of government had to pay for these services.
- Increase awareness of global warming and energy efficient initiatives to 85% of adults and youth participating in CCE's educational programs where environmental sciences are taught. A secondary outcome is the reduction in use of fossil fuels in residential settings and reduction of carbon output. The outcome of our environmental education programs is intended to reduce pollution, the cleanup of which often becomes a taxpayer burden.

This program was funded in 2013. As per the following paragraphs the outcomes have been met.

Out of 400 adults participating in our nutrition education and financial management programs, 80% or 320 will increase their knowledge of healthy food choices, nutrition labels, and financial resource management as it relates to food shopping practices as measured by pre-post tests.

**ACTUAL: 95% of the 496 graduates in 2013 reported improving their knowledge.**

Out of 60 adults participating in our physical fitness programs, 80% or 48 will have a better understanding of obesity prevention strategies as measured by pre/post tests. A secondary outcome would be the reduction in preventable nutrition related diseases such as hypertension, cardio-vascular disease, obesity and diabetes which are a direct cost to the taxpayer in Medicaid dollars.

**ACTUAL: 100% of the 531 participants reported improving their knowledge.**

Out of over 60 youth participating in our 4-H clubs, 80% or 48 will learn the skills to plan, organize and present individual and group projects, become better citizens, and develop confidence and public speaking skills as measured by the number of civic contributions or community/volunteer activities while in 4-H.

**ACTUAL: 100% of the 185 youth participants learned the skills as evidenced by their presentations, exhibits or activities. 4-H Volunteers donated 1,736 hours of service in 2013, valued at \$69,543.**

Out of 600 youth participating in our educational curriculum lessons, 80% or 480 will increase their knowledge of biological or environmental science as measured by educator observation or classroom teacher reporting.

ACTUAL: Teachers reported that the 9,241 youth who participated in the Incubation & Embryology program increased their knowledge of biological science. Another 472 participants in our environmental science programs showed increased knowledge of the subject matter.

Cornell Cooperative Extension will help resolve county-wide environmental issues by providing clinical diagnoses to 100% of the cases brought to their attention as measured by CCE documentation. Diagnoses will include recommendations for best management practices.

ACTUAL: 100% of the 1,039 cases brought to CCE's attention brought to CCE's attention received diagnoses. 100% of the 116 nutrient analyses were completed. All of the 1,193 calls for service received responses. All 55 pH tests were completed.

In 2013, Cornell Cooperative Extension will save taxpayers in Westchester County the equivalent of \$200,000 by receiving Master Gardener services of 5,000 hours which would otherwise conservatively cost at least \$39.99/hour (with benefits) if taxpayers and units of government had to pay for these services.

ACTUAL: 6,899 hours of Master Gardener time donated X \$39.99/hour = \$275,891 worth of services given to Westchester. Additionally, 4-H adult volunteers donated 1,508 hours to Westchester in 2013, valued at \$60,305. (Not all volunteer hours were reported to CCE. Some volunteers do not track and report their hours in time for this report. The foregoing figures only reflect those who track and report their hours by January.)

Increase awareness of global warming and energy efficient initiatives to 85% of adults and youth participating in CCE's educational programs where NYSERDA or CEPREE information is imparted. A secondary outcome is the reduction in use of fossil fuels in residential settings and reduction of carbon output. The outcome of our environmental education programs is intended to reduce pollution, the cleanup of which often becomes a taxpayer burden.

ACTUAL: All 400 youngsters (100%) and 19 adults (100%) participating in CCE classes on biofuels, solar power and alternative energy increased their awareness.

This Agreement does not constitute procurement and, as such, is not subject to the Westchester County Procurement Policy. Rather, in accordance with subdivision 8 of Section 224 of the County Law of the State of New York, the County is specifically authorized to appropriate funds and enter into agreements for the support and maintenance of Cornell's work.

Accordingly, a resolution to authorize an agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Westchester County is hereby submitted for your consideration.

**RESOLUTION**

Upon a communication from the Executive Director of the Westchester County Youth Bureau, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that in accordance with subdivision 8 of Section 224 of the County Law of the State of New York, the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Westchester County (“Cornell”), pursuant to which Cornell will conduct a number of county-wide educational programs in accordance with an agreed-upon scope of services, including, but not limited to, various environmental, ecological and horticultural programs to be held at the County’s Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, as well as various other locations, for a term commencing January 1, 2014 and continuing through December 31, 2014 (the “Agreement”); and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that in consideration for services to be rendered, the County shall pay Cornell an amount not-to-exceed \$800,000.00, 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 written notice, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his authorized designee be and hereby is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary and appropriate to effectuate purposes hereof.

Account to be charged/credited	Fund	Dept. code	Unit #	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
MISC	101	52	2170	5100	----	\$800,000

Budget Funding Year(s) 2014 Start Date January 1, 2014 End Date December 31, 2014  
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars \$800,000  
 State Aid \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ 800,000 Federal Aid \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (must match resolution) Other \_\_\_\_\_