

11322

DATE: May 6, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition & Contract

FROM: Mae Carpenter, Commissioner
Department of Senior Programs and Services

RE: Authority to enter into an Agreement with the New York State Office for the Aging to accept a grant in the amount of \$37,397.00 under the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program, to be used for the program period April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011

The County of Westchester, acting by and through the Department of Senior Programs & Services (the "Department"), seeks authority from your Board to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with the New York State Office for the Aging ("NYSOFA") to accept a grant in the sum of \$37,397.00 under the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program ("HIICAP") to provide Medicare information to seniors, caregiver groups and professional case managers and social workers, who deal with these populations, for the program period April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by providing needed funding to educate and assist the elderly population within the County on Medicare and other important health insurance issues.

The goals and objectives of HIICAP are to provide outreach, educate, empower, inform, and advocate for residents of Westchester County who are nearing or recently reaching 65 years of age, seniors aged 65 and older, the disabled, caregivers and the professional case managers and social workers who deal with these populations.

The goals and objectives of HIICAP are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility because it is a State mandated program that the County would have to pay for if we were to refuse State funds.

The goals and objectives of HIICAP are in the best interest of the County with respect to public health and environment because it allows us to help Medicare beneficiaries obtain needed medications that their Medicare part D plans may not be providing for a variety of reasons.

The goals and objectives of HIICAP are in the best interest of the County with respect to safety and security by helping Medicare beneficiaries navigate a confusing benefit system.

These goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored through review of responses to Department evaluation letters sent to individuals who have been counseled and through review of evaluation forms collected from attendees of group Medicare information sessions. An annual evaluation shall be conducted and monthly reports shall be submitted and reviewed to ensure goals are being met.

If this resolution were not approved, the negative consequences to taxpayers would be that Westchester County would have to incur the cost of operating the program on the local level.

If this resolution were not approved, the health and environment of Westchester County would be negatively affected in terms of health because it could cause harm to seniors if we are not able to resolve medication problems and thereby Medicare beneficiaries would miss getting their needed prescription medications.

In the previous fiscal year, 2,543 senior citizens and their caregivers contacted the department on its dedicated Medicare information line to receive Medicare counseling and assistance.

Because this Agreement is for the acceptance of grant funds, it does not constitute a procurement and, as such, is not subject to the Westchester County Procurement Policy.

Accordingly, I most respectfully recommend adoption of the attached proposed resolution.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 5-20-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

UPON COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the New York State Office for the Aging to accept a grant in the sum of \$37,397.00 under the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program to pay for personnel, maintenance and operations costs associated with providing Medicare information and assistance to Westchester seniors, caregiver groups and professional case managers and social workers who deal with these populations, for the program period April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee be, and hereby is, authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary and 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
263	85	945K	Various	T945	\$37,397.00
263	85	945K	9853	T945	\$37,397.00

Budget Funding Year(s) 10/11 Start Date 4/1/10 End Date 3/31/11
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars _____

State Aid _____

\$ 37,397.00 Federal Aid **\$37,397.00**

(must match resolution) Other _____