

11429

DATE: May 14, 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 \$11,984.00 under the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, to be used to provide Medicare information to seniors and caregiver groups for the program period June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011.

The County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through the Department of Senior Programs & Services (the "Department"), seeks authority from Your Honorable 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 \$11,984.00 under the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act ("MIPPA") to provide Medicare information to seniors, caregiver groups and professional case managers and social workers, who deal with these populations, for the program period June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011. All of the grant allocation will be retained by the Department to cover personnel, maintenance and operations costs associated with MIPPA.

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. Specifically this funding will be used to connect low income seniors with benefit programs to which they are entitled. For example, the Medicare Savings Plan is a program that will pay for low-income beneficiaries' Part B Premium on a monthly basis. These funds are used to screen, identify and assist with the application process for those who are eligible for the Medicare Savings Plan program, as well as the Extra Help program, which is designed to save seniors money.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are to provide outreach, education, empowerment, information, and advocacy for residents of Westchester County who are nearing or have recently reached 65 years of age, seniors aged 65 and up, the disabled, caregivers and the professional case managers and social workers who deal with these populations.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are in the best interests of the County with respect to public health because these grant funds will allow the Department to help Medicare beneficiaries enroll in benefit programs for which they are eligible and, therefore, help them save money that can be used to maintain their homes, purchase needed food, and obtain needed medications that their Medicare Part D plans may, for a variety of reasons, not be providing.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored through review of responses to Department evaluation letters sent to individuals who have been assisted 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.

In the previous fiscal year, the Department helped to educate 2,523 Westchester County seniors and their caregivers about low-income programs for which they could potentially be eligible. Of that number, the Department counseled and assisted 748 Westchester County seniors to apply for these low-income programs for which they appeared to be eligible.

If this resolution were not approved, the health of seniors in Westchester County would be adversely affected since they would not receive the assistance that may be necessary for them to be able to access all of the needed resources for which they are eligible.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 5-27-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

UPON COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, BE IT HEREBY:

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County") 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 \$11,984.00 under the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act to pay for personnel, maintenance and operations costs associated with providing Medicare information and assistance to Westchester County seniors, caregiver groups and professional case managers and social workers who deal with these populations, for the program period June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is hereby 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	962K	9854	T-962	\$11,984
263	85	962K	Various	T-962	\$11,894

Budget Funding Year(s) 10/11 Start Date 6/1/10 End Date 5/31/11
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars _____

State Aid \$11,984.00

\$ 11,984.00 Federal Aid _____

(must match resolution) Other _____