

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin McGuire
Commissioner

22851

DATE: October 24, 2011

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin McGuire, Commissioner
Department of Social Services

RE: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an Agreement with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County to provide a Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program to Food Stamp recipients in an amount not to exceed \$237,920 payable monthly pursuant to an approved budget for the period October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012

The County of Westchester, through its Department of Social Services, requests authority to enter into an agreement with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County to provide a Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program to Food Stamp recipients in an amount not to exceed \$237,920 payable monthly pursuant to an approved budget for the term commencing on October 1, 2011 and terminating on September 30, 2012. This Agreement will provide an education program geared toward encouraging the targeted population to manage food resources more effectively, increase their consumption of grains, fruits and vegetables, adopt safe food handling techniques and develop healthy eating practices. It is to be noted that the aforesaid program is State supervised and locally administered. This program is funded through the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA).

The New York State Division of Transitional Supports and Policy has approved Cornell Cooperative's plan to provide a nutrition education program to Westchester County residents known as "Eat Smart New York." The program is supervised by the State and administered locally. The State funding for this program was reduced in 2011 as a result of the Federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-296) which established and capped Federal funding to States for nutrition education, made revisions to individual State allocations for Food Stamp Nutrition Education activities and enacted new provisions to improve the effectiveness of Food Stamp Nutrition Education to make it easier for States to administer, with the primary change being the elimination of the State match requirement.

The nutrition education to be provided pursuant to this agreement will serve a **public purpose** by improving the quality of assistance made available to Food Stamp recipients as the program offered by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County allows low-income families and individuals to learn how to better manage their food resources and to meet nutritional guidelines.

The goals and objectives of the program offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County pursuant to the proposed agreement are as follows:

- 1) to provide an education program geared toward encouraging target audiences to manage food resources more effectively
- 2) to increase their consumption of grains, fruits and vegetables
- 3) to adopt safe food handling techniques and develop healthy eating practices for children and youth

The goals and objectives of this program are in the **best interests of the County in terms of public health** as the program addresses the need for healthy food practices by teaching the targeted population to better manage their Food Stamp benefits to buy nutritious food for themselves and their families. This program is also in the **best interests of the County regarding fiscal responsibility** in that the entire funding for this agreement is from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA).

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored through reports to be provided by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County and through the program monitoring reports to be provided by program staff. It is to be noted that the aforesaid program is State supervised and locally administered.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County will work with low-income families and individuals and the elderly helping them to learn how to better manage their food resources. **The Department is able to report** that during the first two quarters of the 2010-11 contract period, this program served 636 low-income individuals.

A separate resolution to exempt this procurement from the requirements of Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures has been submitted for your Honorable Board's approval with even date.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County for the above stated purpose.

A resolution requesting your Honorable Board's approval is attached.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that that County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County to provide a Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program to Food Stamp recipients in Westchester County in an amount not to exceed \$237,920 payable monthly pursuant to an approved budget for the term commencing on October 1, 2011 and terminating on September 30, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents and to take such other actions necessary 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	22	290L	4380	T290	\$237,920

Budget Funding Year(s): 2011 (Grant Year) Start Date: 10/01/11 End Date: 9/30/12
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: _____

State Aid: _____

Federal Aid: 100%

\$237,920

(must match resolution)

Other _____