

**34918**

DATE: July 8, 2013

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

RE: Authority to enter into an Agreement with the State of New York, acting by and through the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) to accept a Systems Integration (SI) Initiative grant in an amount not-to-exceed \$64,000, commencing retroactive to April 1, 2012 and continuing through September 30, 2014 to augment the NY Connects program to further improve consumer friendly access to quality of long term care for individuals of all ages with long term care needs

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The County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through the Department of Senior Programs and Services (the "Department"), seeks authority from your Honorable Board to enter into an Agreement (the "Agreement") with the State of New York, acting by and through the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) to accept a Systems Integration (SI) Initiative grant in an amount not-to-exceed \$64,000 commencing retroactive to April 1, 2012 and continuing through September 30, 2014 to augment the NY Connect program to further improve consumer friendly access to quality of long term care for individuals of all ages with long term care needs. The reason that the grant is retroactive to April 1, 2012 is that the grant was applied for in November of 2012 and was not approved by NYSOFA until June 19, 2013.

The \$64,000 in SI funds will be used by the Department to provide direct services, and area agency administration.

NY Connects is a State program that is implemented on the county level to improve access to long term care services through coordinated Information and Assistance. It minimizes confusion, supports informed decision-making and enhances consumer choice. It connects consumers of all ages needing long term care to the necessary services and supports regardless of available payment source, be it private pay, public or a combination of both. The SI grant will further augment these services by fortifying linkages to the range of publicly and privately financed long term care services and supports; enhancing and expanding Information and Assistance; increasing access to public benefits, as appropriate, as well as evidence-based health promotion/prevention programs, such as the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program and care transitions models, and by establishing a dementia capable system through formal inter-connection with the Alzheimer's Association network of services.

The proposed Agreement serves a public purpose by providing supportive services to help maintain Westchester County seniors in the community and avoid premature institutionalization.

The goals and objectives of the program are to 1) realign state and local systems to create a more integrated, person-centered and seamless system for consumers and their families; 2) increase access to Options Counseling, available public benefits, evidence-based health promotion and prevention, care transition programs, caregiver supports, and consumer directed services; 3) strengthen/expand NY Connects as a “no wrong door” point of access to home and community services; 4) streamline eligibility determination through application assistance; 5) strengthen and/or expand integration of care transitions and promote utilization of electronic data exchange; 6) integrate Information and Assistance, options counseling, access to private, third party and publicly funded long term services/supports, and evidence-based caregiver, care transitions, and health promotion programs; 7) systematically bring the integrated programs to scale; 8) Enable access for at least 50 percent of New York’s adults; and 9) implement quality assurance, evaluation and sustainability approaches.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are in the best interest of Westchester County in terms of fiscal responsibility because enabling seniors to stay in their homes and communities as long as possible rather than being placed in nursing homes, will save taxpayer dollars.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored by Department staff through monthly program reports and through quarterly submission of required reports as subscribed by NYSOFA through the web-based NYSOFA Budget and Reporting system.

The grant agreement with NYSOFA does not constitute a procurement and as such, the provisions of the Westchester County Procurement Policy do not apply.

I certify that my department, a. has copies of, or access to, all applicable laws, rules, regulations, grant applications, and grant agreements (including any master grant agreement), as well as any guidance or instructions received from the agency making the grant (the “Grant Terms”), b) has reviewed the Grant Terms, c) is aware of and understands all of the Grant Terms, and d) can and will comply with all of the Grant Terms.

Accordingly, I recommend adoption of the proposed annexed resolution.

MC/SJ/  
Att.

**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 Systems Integration (SI) Initiative grant in an amount not-to-exceed \$64,000 commencing retroactive to April 1, 2012 and continuing through September 30, 2014 to augment the NY Connects program to further improve consumer friendly access to quality of long term care for individuals of all ages with long term care needs; 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.

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
Account to be Credited	263	85	472M	9854	T472	\$64,000
Charged	263	85	472M	various	T472	\$64,000

Budget Funding Year(s) 2012-2014 Start Date 04/01/12 End Date 09/30/14  
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source	Tax Dollars	_____
<u>\$64,000</u>	State Aid	<u>\$64,000</u>
(must match resolution)	Federal Aid	_____
	Other	_____