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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 10, 2012

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Approval for Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) grant additional award.

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization for the Department of Senior Services Retired Senior Volunteer Program to accept a one-time $15,000 "What's Working – Effective Practices" award.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Anthony Gregorczyk, Supervisor of Grants Administration in the Department of Senior Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

cc: Anthony Gregorczyk, Department of Senior Services

MEMORANDUM

To:	Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From:	Department of Senior Services
Re:	The Retired Senior Volunteer Program acceptance of a $15,000 "What's Working - Effective Practices" award Re: Approval for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) grant additional award.
Date:	June 28, 2012

SUMMARY

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) grant has been awarded $15,000 for the promotion of a nationwide replication of the program's effective practices.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional County funds are required.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The $15,000 award is a national award from National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) recognizing RSVP's University Express program as a best practice in volunteer recruitment and civic engagement. It provides replication funding to develop an online guide, webinar, and presentation at a national conference, as well as mentoring other organizations about how to start a similar lifelong learning program. The award was one of six given at the City/County level.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

University Express offers free academic classes at senior centers for adults age 55+. The classes are given by volunteer instructors drawn from retired and active faculty and other professionals. University Express is one of RSVP's most successful vehicles for volunteer recruitment. Since the program began in 2006, thousands of older adults have attended classes. University Express has significantly increased the capacity of RSVP to connect with potential volunteers, and the capacity of senior centers to visibly offer high quality lifelong learning opportunities, attracting new members, and expanding civic engagement in the senior center.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

If this award is not approved, then RSVP will not have the benefit of an additional $15,000 to strengthen the University Express, including marketing efforts to increase community awareness about University Express classes and RSVP volunteer opportunities.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department will process the budget revisions and RSVP will prepare a webinar and guide to promote replication of RSVP's effective practices nationwide.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR SERVICES

RE: Approval for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) grant additional award.

WHEREAS, the 2012 Erie County Budget includes funds appropriated for the 163RSVP1213 grant, for the period April 1, 2012 to March 31,2013; and

WHEREAS, the Department's RSVP unit was awarded $15,000 in funding from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging to promote replication of RSVP's effective practices; and

WHEREAS, RSVP will prepare a webinar and guide for the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging to promote replication of RSVP's effective practices nationwide;

WHEREAS, the 163RSVP1213 grant budget is in need of revision.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive be and hereby is authorized to accept the $15,000 award to fund RSVP's "What's Working – Effective Practices" initiative; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the budget for the 163RSVP1213 grant, be revised as follows:

		CURRENT BUDGET	CHANGES	AMENDED BUDGET
REVENUES				
Account	Description			
417060	Other Income	$2,200	+$15,000	$17,200
APPROPRIATIONS				
Account	Description			
516020	Pro Ser Cent & Fees	$1,500	+6,000	7,500
916390	ID Senior Services Grants	$-27,591	+9,000	-18,591
	TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS CHANGE		$15,000	

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive's Office, the Division of Budget and Management, the Comptroller's Office, and the Departments of Law, Personnel, and Senior Services.