ECLEG NOV05'12 PM12:58

COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

November 5, 2012

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

Re: Authority to participate in the EmPower NY Program

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Department of Senior Services requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to participate in the EmPower NY Program and help eligible seniors lower their energy bills.

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

Sincerely,

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:	Authority to participate in the EmPower NY Program
Date:	October 26, 2012

SUMMARY

Approve the attached resolution to allow the Department of Senior Services to enter into an agreement with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), to process applications for low income seniors who are eligible to participate in the EmPower NY program and reduce their home energy bills.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional County match is required. The department will earn additional revenues.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Energy bills of eligible low income seniors will be reduced.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The EmPower NY program delivers energy efficiency and energy use education to low-income New Yorkers and can provide access to electric and heating efficiency measures such as ENERGY STAR, lighting and refrigerators, insulation and air sealing, and In-Home energy education so as to reduce the energy bills of those served.

NYSERDA is offering to pay the Department of Senior Services $20 for each completed, and income verified, EmPower NY application processed.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Eligible seniors in our community may not obtain the benefits offered by the EmPower NY Program

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department will enter into an agreement with NYSERDA and begin processing EmPower NY applications for eligible seniors.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR SERVICES

RE: Authority to Participate in the
EmPower NY Program

WHEREAS, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has expressed interest in partnering with local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's) to inform older adults who might be eligible for the EmPower NY program, and to assist with the application process; and

WHEREAS, the EmPower NY program delivers energy efficiency and energy use education to low-income New Yorkers and can provide access to electric and heating efficiency measures such as ENERGY STAR, lighting and refrigerators, insulation and air sealing, and In-Home energy education to reduce the energy bills of those served; and

WHEREAS, NYSERDA is offering to pay participating AAA's $20 for each completed EmPower NY application with income verification;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with NYSERDA, for the period September 1, 2012 through December 30, 2015, to complete EmPower NY applications for eligible Erie County seniors, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Community Services for the Elderly grant (163CSE1213) be revised, to reflect anticipated revenue generated from NYSERDA's payments for completed applications, as follows:

		CURRENT BUDGET	CHANGES	AMENDED BUDGET
APPROPRIATIONS				
Account	Description			
530000	Other Expenses	66,110	+3,000	69,110
REVENUES				
466330	Other Local Match	0	+3,000	3,000
			-0-	

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 Department of Senior Services.