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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February 4, 2013

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

RE: Authority to Reimburse Agencies for EmPower NY Application Processing

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Department of Senior Services requesting authorization to enter into agreements to reimburse the department's case management agencies for participating in the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's EmPower NY Program and help eligible seniors lower their energy bills.

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

Sincerely,

Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Executive

Enclosure
MCP/bb

cc: Randy Hoak, Department of Senior Services
Anthony Gregorczyk, Department of Senior Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Senior Services
Re: Authority to Reimburse Agencies for EmPower NY Application Processing
Date: January 07, 2013

SUMMARY

Approve the attached resolution to allow the Department of Senior Services to enter into agreements with the department's seven not-for-profit case management agencies, and reimburse these agencies for processing New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) EmPower NY program applications for low income seniors eligible to participate in the program and thereby reduce their home energy bills.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional County funds are required. The department and agencies 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 has recently entered into an agreement to pay the Department of Senior Services for each completed, and income verified, EmPower NY application processed. The Department desires to share a portion of this revenue with the case management agencies to provide a monetary incentive to help ensure as many eligible seniors as possible are reached in each agency's geographic area.

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 agreements with the case management agencies and pay the agencies five dollars for each valid NYSERDA EmPower NY application for eligible seniors, processed by the agency.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR SERVICES**

**RE: Authority to Reimburse Agencies for
EmPower NY Application Processing**

WHEREAS, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) 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 has recently entered into an agreement to pay the Department of Senior Services for each completed, and income verified, EmPower NY application processed; and

WHEREAS, the Department currently contracts with seven not-for-profit agencies, Community Concern of Western New York Inc.; Concerned Ecumenical Ministry to the Upper West Side of Buffalo, New York, Inc.; Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of Western New York an assumed name of Polish Community Center of Buffalo, Inc.; People Inc.; Schiller Park Community Services Inc.; South Buffalo Community Association, Inc.; Town of Amherst by and through The Amherst Center for Senior Services, to provide case management services for seniors living in different geographic areas within the County; and

WHEREAS, the Department desires to share a portion of the additional NYSERDA revenue with these seven case management agencies, so as to provide a monetary incentive to help ensure as many eligible seniors as possible are reached in each agency's geographic area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into agreements and amend the contracts with, Community Concern of Western New York Inc.; Concerned Ecumenical Ministry to the Upper West Side of Buffalo, New York, Inc.; Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of Western New York an assumed name of Polish Community Center of Buffalo, Inc.; People Inc.; Schiller Park Community Services Inc.; South Buffalo Community Association, Inc.; Town of Amherst by and through The Amherst Center for Senior Services, and pay five dollars for each completed, and income verified EmPower NY application an agency submits to the Department of Senior Services during the period January 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Community Services for the Elderly grant (163CSE1213) which runs through March 31, 2103 be revised, to reflect anticipated revenue generated from NYSERDA's payments for completed applications, as follows:

APPROPRIATIONS		CURRENT BUDGET	CHANGES	AMENDED BUDGET
Account	Description			
516010	Contractual Pymts –Non Profits	0	+6,000	6,000
516030	Maintenance Contracts	14,655	+12,000	26,655
530000	Other Expenses	69,110	<u>+6,000</u>	75,110
	Total Appropriation Change		24,000	

REVENUES

466330	Other Local Match	3,000	+24,000	27,000
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and be it further

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Community Services for the Elderly grant (163CSE1314) for the period April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014 be revised, to reflect anticipated revenue generated from NYSERDA's payments for completed applications, as follows:

APPROPRIATIONS		CURRENT BUDGET	CHANGES	AMENDED BUDGET
Account	Description			
516010	Contractual Pymts –Non Profits	0	+12,000	12,000
516030	Maintenance Contracts	15,100	+25,000	40,100
530000	Other Expenses	49,725	<u>+11,000</u>	60,725
	Total Appropriation Change		48,000	

REVENUES

466330	Other Local Match	0	+48,000	48,000
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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.