

Suffolk Community Council's Annual Meeting June 20, 2007

Remarks from our Keynote Speaker, Suffolk County Presiding Officer Bill Lindsay

Changes to Legislative Grants

- ❖ The management, oversight and administration of what was formally know as the *Member Item* process has been moved form the Executive branch of Suffolk County government to the Legislative branch
- ❖ Our intent is to streamline the process
- ❖ The Legislative grants are now called *Community Support Initiatives*
- ❖ They are now administered by the Legislature, we have removed the need for the contracts to be reviewed by the individual departments
- ❖ The CSI's are processed at the Legislature by the Presiding Officer's Staff, the Legislative Counsel's staff and staff from the Legislature's Budget Review Office
- ❖ What once took the Executive's office \$7,000 a contract to review, we are doing with existing staff at no extra cost

How will this effect Social Service Agencies getting CSI grants?

- ❖ The minimum grant amount was raised from \$500 to \$1,000
- ❖ No more guessing what you need. Any requests for information and required materials are sent directly to the agency contact, IN A TIMELY MANNER and the legislative office is copied
- ❖ In the past agencies could not identify where in the process their grant application was. Legislative offices now get monthly reports on where the grants stand in the process. And we keep in touch to remind you what we are waiting for
- ❖ We have made the contracts easier to fill out, we have gone as far as highlighting the fields you must fill in
- ❖ Dedicated staff member that you can call, Barbara Lomoriello at 853-4857
- ❖ The result should be a shortened turn around time on contracts and ultimately a SHORTER WAIT FOR REIMBURSEMENTS
- ❖ The money is awarded only after the receipts are processed