

WITHDRAWN AS OF 12/1/2009

Intro. Res. No. 1984-2009
Introduced by Legislator Horsley

Laid on Table 11/17/2009

**RESOLUTION NO. -2009, DIRECTING THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO EXPEND
REMAINING 2009 FUNDS FOR THE MIDDLE INCOME HOME
ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MI-HEAP)**

WHEREAS, the difficult national economic times have had local repercussions by causing unemployment in Suffolk County to rise significantly during the past 12 months; and

WHEREAS, as many as 23,952 Suffolk County residents rely on federal funding to sustain heating throughout the cold winter months; and

WHEREAS, the income of many Suffolk County residents is too high to qualify under the Federal HEAP benefit standards, and without MI-HEAP would have difficulty paying their winter heating bills; and

WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Legislature included \$500,000 in the 2009 Adopted Operating Budget to ensure that Suffolk County residents with a household income up to thirty-five percent (35%) above the maximum income level for the federally funded HEAP program are not left struggling to pay their energy bills to stay warm during the winter; and

WHEREAS, approximately \$109,000 of the 2009 MI-HEAP allocation remains to be spent and could assist an estimated 218 households with their heating bills during the upcoming winter season; and

WHEREAS, it is in the economic and public health interest of Suffolk County to expend the entire 2009 authorized allocation for the Middle Income Home Energy Assistance Program (MI-HEAP) to help households struggling to pay their heating bills affected by the prolonged economic downturn; now, therefore be it

1st **RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Department of Social Services is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to initiate the necessary procedures and make the needed staff preparations in order to reopen application for and determine eligibility of households to utilize the remaining authorized 2009 funds for the MI-HEAP program beginning on December 1, 2009; and be it further

2nd **RESOLVED**, the Middle Income Home Energy Assistance Program (MI-HEAP) shall continue to be administered by the Department of Social Services and provide \$500 to eligible households, based upon the income guidelines established under the federally funded HEAP increased by thirty-five percent (35%) to determine eligibility for MI-HEAP funds; and be it further

3^d **RESOLVED**, that all applicants whose income qualifies such applicant for federally funded HEAP shall be funded solely through federally funded HEAP and that only those applicants who are income ineligible for the federally funded HEAP by not more than thirty-five percent (35%) shall be eligible for the remaining 2009 MI-HEAP funds; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that all prescribed documentation that is required for the federally funded HEAP program shall also apply to MI-HEAP; and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that the MI-HEAP Program shall continue to be administered by the Department of Social Services, which has promulgated all policies, procedures, terms and conditions establishing eligibility for and implementation of the MI-HEAP Program, including the continued use of a flat fee structure of \$500 for each eligible household; and be it further

6th **RESOLVED**, that the MI-HEAP Program shall close operations on December 31, 2009 or until the remaining funds that have been authorized are exhausted, whichever comes first; and be it further

7th **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution; and be it further

8th **RESOLVED**, that the remaining appropriations authorized to be spent pursuant to this resolution shall be used for the sole and exclusive purpose of funding the MI-HEAP Program.

DATED:

APPROVED BY:

County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: