

**PRESS RELEASE FROM LEGISLATOR
JACK EDDINGTON**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 16, 2009**

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**JACK EDDINGTON ANNOUNCES \$500,000 IN UNMET NEEDS MONEY AVAILABLE
FOR RESIDENTS SUFFERING FROM THE RECESSION**



Abby Biggs-Smith, moderator of the Unmet Needs Roundtable Program for The Health & Welfare Council of Long Island, discusses with Leg. Jack Eddington the \$500,000 Unmet Needs grant monies now available for Suffolk County residents who qualify and who are suffering from the recession.

(PATCHOGUE, LI)—Wednesday, December 9: Suffolk County Legislator Jack Eddington is pleased to announce that The Health & Welfare Council of Long Island in conjunction with The Economic Opportunity Council (EOC) of Suffolk, Inc. has funds available for Suffolk County residents who find themselves in need because of the current recession. The grant is federal stimulus money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The money is targeted to individuals and families that are not typically in need and not already on public assistance. Residents must qualify for these Unmet Needs Funds by having a gross household income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. For an individual, this means an annual income at or below \$21,660; for a family of five, it means an annual income at or below \$51,580. Residents who qualify must have exhausted all resources and continue to have unmet needs.

"This is very good news for residents who have been able to make ends meet until the unforeseen happened, like the single mom who has suddenly lost her job or had her hours reduced. Typically, these people are not in the system receiving any kind of assistance. This money can be used for fuel, groceries, school supplies, rent, and car repairs. It is that push people sometimes need to get over a hump," said Leg. Eddington.

The EOC will be responsible for making decisions on how to allocate the funds. Residents in need and who qualify should contact the EOC at 631-289-2124, extension 111 for more information.