

**NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

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Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

Greg Olsen, Acting Director

An Equal Opportunity Employer

**INFORMATION MEMORANDUM**

**Number: 12-IM-04**

**Supersedes:**

**Expiration Date:**

**DATE:** October 1, 2012

**TO:** AAA Directors

**SUBJECT: EmPower NY Program**

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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Information Memorandum is to notify the area agencies on aging (AAAs) about an opportunity to partner with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) in regard to its EmPower NY Program.

**BACKGROUND:** NYSERDA administers the EmPower NY energy efficiency program to deliver energy efficiency and energy-use education to low-income New Yorkers serving all counties in New York State. This program 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. These measures will lower the energy bills of those served. Both homeowners and renters in buildings of 100 units or less are eligible to be served. Applicants must have a household income at or below 60% State Median [i.e., Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) eligible]. Funding is limited, and available on a first-come, first served basis. Please note, this is not available in some areas. More details about the program can be found at the NYSERDA website: <http://www.getenergysmart.org/lowIncome/EmPower.aspx>.

NYSERDA has expressed interest in partnering with AAAs to inform older adults who might be eligible for the EmPower NY program about the program and to assist with the application process, including verification of income eligibility. It is offering to pay the participating AAAs \$20 for each completed EmPower NY application with income verification.

Attached is the model Outreach Agreement/Application between NYSERDA and AAAs that must be completed and signed by both parties before AAAs can assist individuals in the application process. Also, attached are the EmPower NY Guidelines and Program Manual. NYSOFA recommends that the AAAs consult with their legal counsel concerning the terms and conditions of the proposed agreement, risks related to serving as a referral source which may lead to work being performed in the home of the older adult, and any other concerns about potential liability.

**PROGRAMS AFFECTED:**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-D | <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-E   | <input type="checkbox"/> CSE           | <input type="checkbox"/> SNAP   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EISEP       | <input type="checkbox"/> NSIP          | <input type="checkbox"/> Title V       | <input type="checkbox"/> HIICAP | <input type="checkbox"/> LTCOP             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:      |  |  |                                 |  |

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