

John G. Testa
Legislator, 1st District



NEWS RELEASE

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Legislator John G. Testa announces County to extend Cortlandt Nor-West Grant Deadline

\$60,000 grant will provide partial funding to the Town of Cortlandt for the purchase of two 2010 13 passenger mini-buses that will offer a safe means of transportation for developmentally disabled individuals.

White Plains, NY - On February 11, 2010, the Westchester County Board of Legislators originally approved a request to change the scope of services of a grant to the Town of Cortlandt to purchase two (2) mini-buses and change the expiration date of the agreement to April 15, 2010. The funds will come from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program. The recent resolution before the County Board of Acquisition & Contracts (A&C) called for extending the purchase deadline to September 30, 2010, which passed unanimously at its June 15, 2010 meeting.

"I fully support the Town's request for additional time to secure bids for this vitally important purchase," remarked Legislator Testa. The Nor-West program is a long established, successful partnership with the Town of Cortlandt, providing access to host of programs for developmentally disabled individuals.

Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi added, "The Para-transit mini-bus is very important to benefit Nor-West, a wonderful organization located in Cortlandt, and those individuals with developmental challenges in our community and area. We are delighted to work with Westchester County and are grateful for the CDBG grant that covers the expense of these needed vehicles".

Funding for this grant is provided directly through HUD and does not require local taxpayer funds. Testa further noted, "That if this resolution had not been authorized, the individuals who have relied on this program would have been effectively cut off, as they have no other means of transportation".

"I'm gratified my colleagues on the Board join me, along with the Astorino Administration in endorsing the Town of Cortlandt's request to extend this grant application and protect the interests and quality of life of some of our most vulnerable citizens."

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