



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

June 28, 2013

The Honorable Mike Johanns  
United States Senate  
404 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johanns:

Thank you for your letter of June 27, 2013, regarding your concerns of being responsible stewards of increasingly scarce taxpayer dollars.

The funds referenced in the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) Request for Applications (RFA) and mentioned in your letter do not come from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) appropriation. They will be conveyed to USDA through a reimbursable agreement between NIFA and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIFA, in turn, will allocate these funds to State Cooperative Extension Services, which is charged with delivering educational programs to its respective communities. This interagency agreement was put in place to make use of the outreach education potential of the Cooperative Extension Service for the purposes of informing and educating consumers regarding their health choices within the Marketplace Exchanges of the Affordable Care Act. This is a typical example of how the broad reach and expertise of the Cooperative Extension System is leveraged by other Federal agencies.

In fact, a similar partnership was in place during your tenure as the Secretary of Agriculture after Congress passed H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act in June 2003. As you can see in the attached Interagency Agreement, USDA received \$300,000 from CMS to assist with the outreach and education associated with the implementation of the Medicare Part D prescription drug program.

USDA extension activities are governed by the Smith-Lever Act [see 7 U.S.C. 341], which provides broad authority for extension agents to educate individuals on a vast range of topics both stated explicitly and those left unstated. For example, the Smith-Lever Act itself does not mention 4-H, but it is a critical national program within Smith-Lever funded activities.

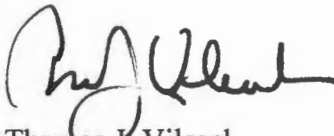
As the Secretary for USDA, I am committed to ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used responsibly and in a way that reflects the intent of Congress; and in this case, similar to the Department's work during your tenure, you may be further assured that there are no USDA appropriations supporting this RFA.

The Honorable Mike Johanns  
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Furthermore as has been the case in previous interagency agreements, outreach and education are a part of the broadly authorized program of work for NIFA and Cooperative Extension in the Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Again, thank you for your letter. I look forward to continuing working together on issues of critical importance to our Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "V".

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

Enclosure



# CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

## INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT

### BETWEEN

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATIVE STATE  
RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE

### AND

THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

IA 04-136 (CMS)

#### I. Purpose

The purpose of this Inter-agency Agreement (IA) between the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and the Center for Beneficiary Choices (CBC), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is to support a collaborative effort to reach people with Medicare who could benefit from the Medicare-Approved Prescription Drug Cards.

#### II. Authority

The Economy Act - 31 U.S.C. 1535

#### III. Background

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act (MMA) was signed into law in December of 2003, providing seniors and people living with disabilities with a prescription drug benefit, more choices and better benefits under Medicare. However, many residents of rural communities and traditionally underserved audiences may not have the tools necessary to make informed decisions about Medicare, because they do not have ready access to accurate information about MMA benefits and reform.

The Families, 4-H and Nutrition Unit (F4HN) of USDA/CSREES proposes to partner with CMS to provide tools and training to Extension professionals to educate rural communities and underserved audiences about the MMA and the Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Card through the Cooperative Extension System.

Putting accurate, timely information into the hands of people in rural communities and underserved audiences is challenging at best. These audiences are often typified by a lack of access to social services, educational opportunities, technology, and transportation. Cooperative Extension Educators at the state and local level are uniquely positioned to reach out to rural and underserved audiences and educate them about Medicare benefits and reform through a wide variety of educational approaches including Extension workshops, meetings, conferences, exhibits, publications, electronic communication, fact

sheets, newsletters, and mass media.

Cooperative Extension System educators will provide consumers with educational information that will allow them to obtain information to make informed health care decisions. Both Medicare beneficiaries and their family caregivers who are rural, have limited resources, and/or are from minority population groups will be targeted to receive educational information. The educational outreach provided through the Cooperative Extension System will be provided in conjunction with on-going nutrition, family life and caregiver, health, and financial management education programs. The project directors will identify states for participation in a pilot project using current Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services demographic and beneficiary data.

#### **IV. Scope of Work and Responsibilities**

The following provisions outline the responsibilities of each agency:

USDA/CSREES will:

- Conduct an initial meeting with CMS staff to discuss timeline, project logistics, training events and the availability of Medicare publications and resources for use by Extension Health, Family Life and Human Development Specialists and Extension Educators.
- Conduct training on Medicare benefits and reform for Extension Health, Family Life and Human Development Specialists from each of the targeted states. Specialists from each of the targeted states will be brought in to either Washington D.C. or Baltimore, Maryland for the training event and networking opportunities with CMS staff. Training to include strategies to use for reaching targeted populations.
- Work with Health, Family Life and Human Development Specialists at every land-grant university and in every state to complete the National Medicare Education Training Course online, review CMS resources, and share information and resources with Extension Educators in their state or territory.
- Coordinate with appropriate Regional Office REACH staff in regions where targeted outreach will occur.
- Conduct training events for Extension Educators in targeted states and provide them with the resources, materials and support necessary to maximize opportunities to educate rural and underserved audiences about Medicare benefits and reform.
- Encourage Extension Educators to connect with other local agencies and organizations, such as libraries, healthcare facilities, and community service partners to disseminate Medicare materials and information at Extension educational events in the community.
- Develop instruments and distribute them to Extension Educators to assess the impact of community education and information dissemination on Medicare benefits and reform.
- Report impact results to CMS at specified project junctures, and upon project

completion.

CMS will:

- Make available \$300,000 to USDA/CSREES in support of the activities referenced in this IA.
- Identify states with large numbers of rural and underserved groups for targeted training events and dissemination of Medicare publications and information. This may occur through a proposal process or demographic assessment to determine greatest reach/impact.
- Identify (REACH) coordinator in each of CMS's 10 Regional Offices to be a resource for Extension Educators.
- Develop a process for connecting SHIP staff in every state with Extension Health, Family Life and Human Development Specialists in the Land-Grant University System. Updates and information provided by SHIP staff will be shared with Extension Educators through electronic or other media.
- Assist in development of any additional materials needed for training and for distribution.

**V. Duration of Agreement**

This agreement becomes effective upon signatures of both parties and will remain in effect through September 30, 2005. Any modification or amendment of this agreement must be agreed to by both parties in writing. Either party may terminate this agreement for cause by giving the other party 30 days notice in writing.

**VI. Project Officers**

The CMS representative is:  
Susie Butler  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
  
7500 Security Boulevard  
S2-22-05  
Baltimore, MD 21244  
410-786-7211

The USDA/CSREES representative is:  
Anna Mae Kobbe, Director  
Family Consumer Sciences and Nutrition  
Cooperative State Research, Education, and  
Extension Service  
Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC  
(202) 720-2970

**VII. Funds/Method of Payment**

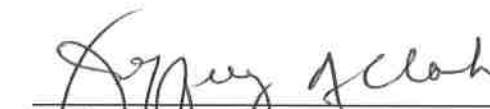
USDA/CSREES will cite CMS accounting information on the award document. CMS funds for this IAA will not exceed \$300,000. CMS shall reimburse USDA/CSREES for all services provided under the terms of this IA. USDA/CSREES will bill CMS for all services utilizing Intra-governmental Payment and Collection System (IPAC) after receipt

of the signed IA by all parties. Appropriate accounting data shall be cited in all billing documents:

**TRANSFER FUNDS**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
	CMS	USDA/CSREES
Agency Location Code:	75-05-0080	12-40-2200
Appropriation No.:	75 4/5 0511	1240502
CAN:	45998601	N/A
Object Class Code:	25.38	25.38
Amount:	\$300,000	\$300,000
Allotment:	01	
Allowance:	101	
EIN:	52-0883104	1720564834A5
DUNS No.	927645622	929332385
Control Number:	CMS IA 04-136	CMS IA 04-136
FMIB Approval Number:	6036	
Commitment Number:	765-4-6036-02	
Amount:	\$300,000	\$300,000
Billing Contacts:	Jean Katzen (410) 786-5423 Fax: (410) 786-7259	Frederica Stewart (202) 720-2810 Fax: (202) 720-2750
Other Contact:	Linda Mansfield CMS IA Officer (410) 786-4193 Fax: (410) 786-9643	

**Certification of Funds Availability**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Horneman, Director  
Division of Budget Management & Execution  
Office of Financial Management  
CMS

7/20/04  
Date

The USDA/CSREES cannot begin work or bill CMS through the Intra-governmental Payment and Collection System (IPAC) until receipt of a signed IA by all parties. CMS will be billed via IPAC monthly for actual costs incurred.

CMS will obligate FY 2004 not to exceed \$300,000. Prior to the IPAC submission to CMS, the USDA/CREES shall submit payment documentation of invoices that support actual expenditures to justify the IPAC billing that will be submitted to CMS.

Send this documentation to both the CMS Billing Contact and the CMS Project Officer identified below:

**MAILING ADDRESS**

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Office of Financial Management  
Division of Accounting Operations  
P.O. Box 7520  
Baltimore, MD 21207-0520  
Attention: Jean Katzen

**MAILING ADDRESS**

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Center for Beneficiary Choices  
7500 Security Blvd  
Baltimore, MD 21207  
Attention: Susie Butler

Agencies submitting IPAC bills to CMS without payment documentation will be charged back if documentation is not received within five working days of IPAC submission. Please include the following CMS control number on the IPAC submission – **IA 04-136**.

**VIII. Duplication**

Full implementation of this agreement will not duplicate any existing agreements.


**IX. Privacy Act**

This agreement is for purposes of partnering and development of educational materials and does not involve any Privacy Act issues.

**X. Information Security**

This agreement is for purposes of partnering and development of educational materials and does not involve the exchange of CMS information or access to CMS information systems.

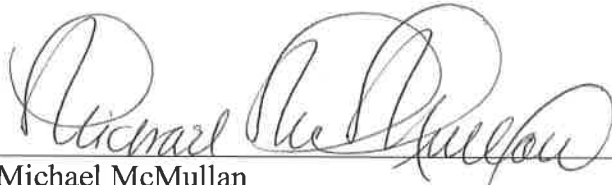
**XI. Signatures**



CHRISTINA C. BUCH  
Budget Officer

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

7-29-04  
Date



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Michael McMullan  
Deputy Director,  
Center for Beneficiary Choices  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

7-20-4  
Date