



PRESS RELEASE

Senior Nutrition Program Meal Provider Contracts Granted for FY 2009 *\$1.9 Million allocated to four meal providers to serve 14 county region*

Kilgore, TX, December 1, 2008: The East Texas region will receive increased funding for the Senior Nutrition Program in FY 2009 to provide home delivered nutritious meals to eligible homebound seniors and congregate meals at local senior centers. The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) Area Agency on Aging (AAA) subcontracts with meal providers each year to provide home delivered and congregate meals in the subcontractors designated areas to collectively serve ETCOG's fourteen county region. In FY 2009 \$1,891,103 has been allocated to four subcontractors compared to FY 2008's allocation of \$1,798,809 to three subcontractors.

Funding for the Senior Nutrition Program is granted to the AAA from the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) and supplemental funds. Although funding increased in FY 2009, meal provider subcontractors faced a projected \$229,849 shortfall in the composite total amount of funding requested compared to the projected amount of available funding from DADS. To develop an equitable solution to distribute the projected funding shortfall, the subcontractors (Community Services of Northeast Texas, Meals on Wheels Palestine, Meals on Wheels Ministry of Tyler, and Northeast Texas Opportunities Inc.) were asked to meet at ETCOG on December 1. It was decided to distribute the projected shortfall by equally sharing it among 3 of the 4 nutrition service providers, in proportion to their respective funding requests. The net result is 3 providers received 6.8 percent less funding than they requested. The 4th provider received funding based on actual expenses to serve one county during the five months they have provided services.

Provider	Counties Served	Amount Requested	Amount Allocated
Community Services of Northeast Texas	Camp, Marion, Panola, Harrison	\$363,883	\$339,161
Meals on Wheels Palestine	Anderson, Cherokee, Rusk	\$289,149	\$269,505
Meals on Wheels Ministry in Tyler	Gregg, Henderson, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood	\$1,330,850	\$1,240,436
Northeast Texas Opportunities, Inc.	Rains	\$137,070	\$42,000

The ETCOG Senior Nutrition Program began a transition from subcontracting with three meal providers in 2007 to four providers in 2008. *"By working in a collaborative manner with all of our nutrition subcontractors, I am confident that we will not only be able to address the projected funding short fall but also continue to provide meals for those seniors who are most in need while strengthening the program over time"* said ETCOG Executive Director, David Cleveland.

It is estimated the Senior Nutrition Program served 369,009 meals in FY 2008. For more information contact ETCOG Director of Aging, Claude Andrews at (903)984-8641 ext. 214 or (903)930-1098.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.

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