

Funds Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 4:00 PM

Cobleskill Extension Center, Cooperstown Education Center & Zoom Virtual Meeting

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Call to Order** – Liz Callahan called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.
2. **Present** – Members present were Andrew Marietta, Jim Hayes, Nicole Blanchard, Shelby MacLeish; staff Liz Callahan and Nicole Thompson.
3. Status of Program & Project Funding Requests:
 - a. Farm-To-School Program: Current funding extended through June 2027 (at .6 FTE). CCESO's 2026 grant proposal was not funded, another proposal will be submitted in January
 - b. Rehabilitation of the Otsego Education Center: Renew America's Nonprofits (RAN) grant program was rescinded by Sustainable Westchester. In the Fall 2026 CCESO will seek funding from local foundations.
 - c. Collaboration with Cornell Legal Clinic, Industrial & Labor Relations: Pending request, if funded it will support ag outreach and needs assessment in both counties (.5 FTE for 2 yrs).
4. Status of Grant Funded Projects:
 - a. SNAP Ed funding will sunset in the end of September.
 - b. EFNEP is fully funded through the 2027 program year.
 - c. NYSERDA Community Energy Advisor support is fully funded. New contract is being drafted.
 - d. The committee discussed pursuing funding in collaboration with food banks, with CCESO providing nutrition education (shopping for food on a budget, preparing food) to complement the services of the food bank. Nicole noted that the CMS expansion of access to funding presented an opportunity, and that there are many opportunities to collaborate with community partners with SNAP reductions and Social Service limitations.
5. 2027 Allocation Requests to Otsego County & Schoharie County:
 - a. Liz recapped the elected official familiarization event at Otsego Co Fair.
 - b. The projected 2027 Otsego County allocation is \$208,472 (approximately a \$13K reduction). Liz is presenting to the Otsego County SWEC committee and requesting a restoration of funding to \$221,000. In addition to a level 2027 operating funding request, CCESO requested an allocation "enhancement" of \$30,000 to support Schoharie County 4-H.
6. Association Fundraising Efforts:
 - a. The Association's annual appeal, which was mailed in September, promotes giving options, including through the Mohawk Valley Gives (MVG) campaign. Liz is encouraging Board members to participate in promoting giving to CCESO through it.
 - b. We will resume planning late 2026/early 2027 (after appeal/MV Gives campaign) for the online auction in Spring 2027.