**Brief Summary of Program**

This extension program will improve the household financial security of targeted New York populations through money management education and result in benefits to the economic vitality of communities as well. It will empower low and moderate-income households who are especially vulnerable to financial setbacks and have less disposable income to commit to savings. These populations lack access to financial advisors who target higher income individuals. It will assist low-income households who often live in poor-quality housing that has high levels of radon, carbon monoxide, lead, asbestos, and basement mold—adversely affecting residents. In addition, it will enhance older housing that is frequently less energy-efficient than new housing and inform households that have limited access to residential energy-efficient products and services. There are nearly 4 million low- and moderate-income individuals in a number of upstate New York State regions. By focusing on this group we will have a strong impact in a segment of the population that would benefit the most from improved skills in financial literacy, energy and air quality management. Limited and highly neighborhood-specific programming in New York City is a secondary potential priority. Research addresses topics such as how public policies affect the economic behavior and well-being of vulnerable populations, e.g., older persons, people with disabilities, and low-income households. The multidisciplinary approach draws on demography, economics, gerontology, as well as public policy. Other faculty research draws on broad-based and diverse set of social science and design methodologies to understand how the planning, design and management of the built environment affects individuals, groups, organizations and communities, and how this knowledge can feed the imagination to generate innovative design solutions to pressing social and cultural issues. Through work on sustainable design and development they examine and develop designs that contribute to the health of the environment as well as those inhabiting it.

**Situation and Priorities Statement**

Economic security, financial and other household resource management are educational priorities for Cornell Cooperative Extension in New York State.

- Personal income levels in upstate New York increased at half the national rate during the 1990s thus putting a strain on household finances that continues today.
- The unemployment rate for New York State in December 2008 was 7.0%
- National 2004 data indicate households have financially insecure positions.
  - Forty-five percent of all workers had total household assets, excluding the home, of less than $25,000.
  - The US personal savings rate was only 1 percent.
- The average 2003 credit card debt in New York was $5,184, higher than the national average of $4,663.

**Assumptions**

- Low income and many moderate income households have limited or no access to financial advice and non-biased financial and other resource management information.
- Financial and other resource management education leading to improved management practices will result in increased household disposable income and lessened financial set-backs.
- Lower income households can institute practices that improve the indoor environmental quality of their residences.
- Increased household disposable income and improved indoor environments will result in improved quality of life for individuals, more prosperous communities and overall improvement in the NYS economy.

**Description of Target Audiences**

- Low and moderate-income households who are especially vulnerable to financial setbacks and have less disposable income to commit to savings.
- Low-income households living in poor-quality housing.

**Ultimate Goal(s) of the program**

- Improved financial status of targeted NYS residents.
- Increased energy conservation and control of energy costs.
- Improved indoor air quality in low income households resulting in better health outcomes.
**Note:** Only highlighted outcomes are collected in annual reporting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Near-Term Outcomes</th>
<th>Mid-Term Outcomes</th>
<th>Long-Term Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(3.3.1a) # of persons completing education programs on age-appropriate topics like spending and saving concepts, appropriate use of money, financial goals, tracking expenses, budgeting, credit management, financial planning, and/or wealth generation strategies. (no target)</td>
<td>(3.3.1b) # participants who demonstrate knowledge or skill gains and/or can articulate specific actions they will take related to spending and saving concepts, appropriate use of money, setting financial goals, tracking expenses, budgeting, credit management, financial planning, and/or wealth generation strategies. (no target)</td>
<td>(3.3.1c) # of program participants reporting they are practicing wise money management skills such as comparison shopping, paying bills on time, paying more than minimum payment, checking credit report, and reviewing and understanding bills/statements as a means to meeting financial goals. (3,000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.3.2 Indoor Environment</strong></td>
<td>Indoor Environment</td>
<td>Indoor Environment</td>
<td>Indoor Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3.3.2a) # of consumers and property managers completing programs on indoor air quality issues. (no target)</td>
<td>(3.3.2b) # of consumers and property managers gaining awareness and knowledge of indoor air quality issues and remediation options. (no target)</td>
<td>(3.3.2c) # of program participants documented to have taken measures to prevent or remediate indoor air quality issues. (6,200)</td>
<td>(3.3.2d) # of program participants documented to have reduced short-term health effects of indoor air pollutants (such as irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat, headaches, dizziness, and fatigue) as a result of participating in educational programs. (3.3.2e) # of participants reducing risks of respiratory diseases, heart disease, and cancer by implement measures such as radon remediation, controlling indoor triggers of asthma: secondhand smoke, dust mites, pet dander, and pests.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remove 3.3.3abcde