



FITA Expands its Common Cents Program

With a recent grant from the Overbrook Foundation, Fiscal Infrastructure Technical Assistance (FITA), a program of Medical and Health Research Association of New York City (MHRA), has recently expanded its *Common Cents* training to provide nonprofits with stronger fiscal infrastructure and policies.

Established in 1993, FITA is a management support program that strengthens nonprofits through workshops, forums, group training and one-on-one consultations in fiscal management and other areas; its *Common Cents* program focuses on the development of fiscal controls and enables participating organizations to create a customized fiscal policies and procedures training manual that meets their specific needs. FITA has been providing *Common Cents* training on a more limited scale for four years with great success. Over 75% of participants have fully implemented their fiscal policies and procedures manuals and over 90% of agencies report reduced fiscal risk, demonstrating the program's cost effectiveness.

“New York’s nonprofit community is facing increasing scrutiny, growing competition for financial support, and complex fiscal regulations,” said Ellen Rautenberg, President and CEO of MHRA. “Through *Common Cents*, we can help organizations improve their fiscal management systems and foster the best use of both public and private funding.”

The Common Cents program helps organizations gain a solid understanding of fiscal management issues. Participants leave the training with a strong understanding of fiscal policies and procedures, personalized draft fiscal policies and procedures manual and step-by-step implementation plan in hand, along with the skills to revise the manual as needed.

“Nonprofit organizations in the region and beyond have completed Common Cents training with great success,” reports FITA Deputy Director Stuart Cohen. “Three out of four participants who have completed our training have implemented a fiscal policies and procedures manual for their organizations. With such a high success rate, we are confident that other nonprofits will find the same value when they complete our expanded Common Cents training.”

Medical and Health Research Association of New York City, Inc. is an independent, nonprofit, New York City-focused organization dedicated to improving the health of high-risk, underserved populations. MHRA provides health and related services, conducts demonstration and research programs, and offers technical assistance services in order to improve community health and strengthen health policy. Working in partnership with government agencies, community organizations, and educational institutions, MHRA is committed to responding quickly and effectively to public health challenges.

For more information on Common Cents, please contact Stuart Cohen at 212-343-8220, ext 32 or email scohen@fita-mhra.org. For more information regarding MHRA, please contact Jonathan Gross at 212-285-0220, ext. 147 or email jgross@mhra.org.