



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 21, 2013

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Department of Social Services
Catholic Charities
Closing the Gap Contract**

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services requests authorization to contract with Catholic Charities for the Closing the Gap initiative in the amount of \$160,000. This initiative will be fully supported with no additional local tax levy dollars as the Department will receive an \$80,000 cash donation from the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, and the remaining \$80,000 of local share will be derived from a 2013 adopted budget line with ECMC which will not be utilized. State reimbursement for this local share will be sought from the State through approval of this initiative as a Community Optional Preventive Services program.

Closing the Gap is an activity that places casework staff in school buildings to provide an outreach specialist function to assist students as needed in assessment, counseling, referral and intervention. Staff assigned will focus on the unique needs of individual students and bridge the gap between students, teachers, administrators, support staff and community service providers.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact Carol Dankert at the Department of Social Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure
cc: Carol Dankert, Department of Social Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Social Services
Re: Catholic Charities
Closing the Gap Contract
Date: January 10, 2013

SUMMARY

The Department of Social Services requests authorization to contract with Catholic Charities for the Closing the Gap initiative in the amount of \$160,000.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This initiative will be fully supported with no additional local tax levy dollars as the Department will receive an \$80,000 cash donation from the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, and the remaining \$80,000 of local share will be derived from a 2013 adopted budget line with ECMC which will not be utilized. There is no fiscal impact to the 2013 Adopted Budget as a result of this resolution.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Closing the Gap initiative places casework staff in school buildings to provide an outreach specialist function to assist students as needed in assessment, counseling, referral and intervention, and this contract will fund staff to focus on the unique needs of individual students and bridge the gap between students, teachers, administrators, support staff and community service.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Catholic Charities has successfully operated this program in previous years.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department would be unable to enhance services through the use of donated funds.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Contracts with United Way and Catholic Charities will be executed and services will commence.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
SOCIAL SERVICES**

**RE: CATHOLIC CHARITIES
CLOSING THE GAP CONTRACT**

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services requests authorization to contract with Catholic Charities for the Closing the Gap initiative in the amount of \$160,000; and

WHEREAS, this initiative will be fully supported with no additional local tax levy dollars as the Department will receive an \$80,000 cash donation from the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, and the remaining \$80,000 of local share will be derived from a 2013 adopted budget line with ECMC which will not be utilized; and

WHEREAS, State reimbursement for this local share will be sought from the State through approval of this initiative as a Community Optional Preventive Services program; and

WHEREAS, the Closing the Gap initiative places casework staff in school buildings to provide an outreach specialist function to assist students as needed in assessment, counseling, referral and intervention; and

WHEREAS, staff assigned focus on the unique needs of individual students and bridge the gap between students, teachers, administrators, support staff and community service providers; and

WHEREAS, this proposed resolution authorizes the Department to amend the 2013 Adopted Budget and to execute a contract with Catholic Charities as the lead agency for this program funding; and

WHEREAS, there is no local share fiscal impact to this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive and the Commissioner of Social Services are authorized to execute necessary contracts and agreements for this program, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments are hereby authorized in the 2013 Adopted Budget

Department of Social Services, Fund 110, Department 120

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)
516400	Title XX Preventive and Protective Services (Catholic Charities – Closing the Gap Program)	\$160,000
516052	Contractual – ECMC Vocational Rehabilitation	<u>(80,000)</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u>\$80,000</u>
418430	Donated Funds	<u>\$80,000</u>
	Total Revenue	<u>\$80,000</u>

RESOLVED, since this program is needed immediately, the County Administrative Code requirement in Section 19.08 for a Request for Proposals (RFP) is hereby waived and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the Commissioner of Social Services, the Erie County Comptroller, and the Director of the Division of Budget and Management.