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County of Erie

DENNIS T. GORSKI
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

PHONE: 716-858-8500

February 2, 1999

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
25 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Department of Social Services
Merit Incentive Program

Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services has been awarded \$39,000 in Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funding under the Merit Incentive program. This is one-time funding which is to be used to reward seventh, eighth or ninth grade students in receipt of TANF benefits who are excelling in academic studies and are participating in community service with a 501-3C organization. The merit awards will be in the form of a personal computer.

The program is targeted to the City of Buffalo and the City of Lackawanna School systems and is limited to clients currently enrolled in the Child Assistance Program (CAP). There are currently 400 cases in the CAP program and 78 of these participants are eligible to receive a computer under this program. The identification of students to receive the computers will be conducted by the CAP program administrative team in consultation with respective casework staff.

The Department presented and New York State approved a plan whereby personal computers and basic computer training will be provided to thirty (30) students. This funding is an overwhelming opportunity to provide students of excellence with a resource and tool that they would otherwise not have during their junior high school years.

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The proposed resolution authorizes the Department to accept the Merit Incentive Program funds, to administer the program and to amend the 1999 budget to appropriate the additional Federal funds.

Please refer this matter to the appropriate committee of your Honorable Body. Representatives of the Department of Social Services will be available to answer questions.

Very truly yours,



Dennis T. Gorski
County Executive

**RESOLUTION
ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
MERIT INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services has been awarded \$39,000 in Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funding under the Merit Incentives program, and

WHEREAS, this is one-time funding which is to be used to reward seventh, eighth or ninth grade students in receipt of TANF benefits who are excelling in academic studies and are participating in community service with a 501-3C organization, and

WHEREAS, the Department presented and New York State approved a plan whereby personal computers and basic computer training will be provided to thirty (30) students, and

WHEREAS, the program is targeted to the City of Buffalo and the City of Lackawanna School systems and is limited to clients currently enrolled in the Child Assistance Program (CAP), and

WHEREAS, there are currently 400 cases in the CAP program and 78 of these participants are eligible to receive a computer under this program, and

WHEREAS, the identification of students to receive the computers will be conducted by the CAP program administrative team in consultation with respective casework staff, and

WHEREAS, this funding is an overwhelming opportunity to provide students of excellence with a learning resource and tool that they would otherwise not have during their junior high school years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Department is hereby authorized to accept the Federal award and to administer the Merit Incentive Program, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments are hereby authorized in the 1999 Adopted Budget:

Department of Social Services, Department 200, Fund 120

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>INCREASE/ (DECREASE)</u>
933	Laboratory and Technical Equipment	<u>\$39,000</u>
	Total Expenditures	<u>\$39,000</u>
826	Federal Aid- Family Assistance	<u>\$39,000</u>
	Total Revenues	<u>\$39,000</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services as well as the Director of Budget and Management.

**ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM
ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
MERIT INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

SUMMARY

The Department presented and New York State approved a Merit Incentives Program plan whereby \$39,000 in Federal funds have been awarded to the County to provide personal computers and basic computer training to thirty (30) students. This funding is an overwhelming opportunity to provide students of excellence with a learning resource and tool opportunity that they would otherwise not have during their junior high school years.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no adverse fiscal impacts to this program as the purchase is funded through a 100% Federal share award.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Social Services has been awarded \$39,000 in Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funding under the Merit Incentive program. This is one-time funding which is to be used to reward seventh, eighth or ninth grade students in receipt of TANF benefits who are excelling in academic studies and are participating in community service with a 501-3C organization.

BACKGROUND FOR THE PROPOSAL

The program is targeted to the City of Buffalo and the City of Lackawanna School systems and is limited to clients currently enrolled in the Child Assistance Program (CAP). There are currently 400 cases in the CAP program and 78 of these participants are eligible to receive a computer under this program. The identification of students to receive the computers will be conducted by the CAP program administrative team in consultation with respective casework staff.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

This program could not be implemented.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF MEASURE

Students will be identified according to program criteria, computers will be purchased by the Department and provided to students and training will commence.