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ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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County of Erie

DENNIS T. GORSKI
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
January 20, 1999

PHONE: 716-858-8500

Erie County Legislature
25 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202

RE: Request for Legislative Action that will authorize Erie County to accept a Grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide rental assistance and supportive services for homeless persons with serious mental illness.

Dear Honorable Members:

Attached is a draft resolution for County Legislature adoption that will authorize Erie County to accept a McKinney Homeless Supportive Housing Program Grant for \$617,066 from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide rental assistance and supportive services for homeless persons disabled by serious mental illness. Necessary matching funds have been provided by the New York State Office of Mental Health. No County tax dollars are needed to support this request.

The Erie County Department of Mental Health will institute a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to determine provider agency(ies) through which contracts will be executed to utilize these grant monies in providing rental assistance and supportive services for homeless persons disabled by serious mental illness. The resulting recommendations to transfer funds and to execute contracts with specific provider agency(ies) will be submitted for Legislative approval.

Please refer this matter to the appropriate Committee of your Honorable Body. Representatives of the Department of Mental Health will be available to answer any questions.

Very truly yours,

Dennis T. Gorski
Erie County Executive

DTG/EEGB:jh
Enclosures
(Ref.# DMHMH-99.2)

3E-19

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health is responsible for the delivery of a comprehensive range of mental health services for the residents of Erie County, and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health has been awarded \$617,066 over three years by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide rental assistance and supportive services for homeless persons disabled by serious mental illness under the McKinney Homeless Supportive Housing Program, and

WHEREAS, no County funds will be required for Erie County to accept these Federal funds to serve homeless persons disabled by serious mental illness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to contract with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$617,066 over a three year period to provide rental assistance for homeless persons disabled by serious mental illness, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following grant project and budget is hereby established in the Erie County Department of Mental Health to provide rental assistance and supportive services for homeless persons disabled by serious mental illness for the period January 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999, which represents year one of the three year period:

**Department of Mental Health Grant Funds
Project Title: Mental Health HUD Supportive Transitional Housing Program**

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
830	Contract Agencies & Service Charges	205,700
640	Federal Aid	205,700

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Department of Mental Health is hereby authorized to recommend the transfer of funds in order to execute contracts with specific provider agencies on the basis of proposals received in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) pursuant to the requirements of Section 19.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code. Such recommendations to transfer funds and to execute specific contracts shall be submitted for Legislative approval, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be furnished to the Department of Mental Health and the Division of Budget, Management and Finance.

ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

1. RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the County Legislature adopt the proposed resolution permitting the County Executive to sign the three year Grant Agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide rental assistance and supportive services for homeless persons disabled by serious mental illness.

2. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding for this contract will be derived entirely from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The matching fund requirement will be derived entirely from the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYSOMH). HUD's total fund obligation for this project is \$617,066. NYSOMH has provided the necessary matching funds. No County Tax dollars are necessary to support this request.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

This grant will provide scattered site transitional housing with supportive services for approximately 16 homeless individuals and/or families disabled by mental illness.

4. BACKGROUND

The Erie County Department of Mental Health applied for, and was awarded, a grant to provide scattered site transitional housing with supports for homeless individuals and/or families with mental illness under the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development McKinney Homeless Program. For a period of three years, the Erie County Department of Mental Health will be able to provide rental subsidies to homeless individuals in apartments scattered throughout Erie County. The Department will also provide mental health supports to these individuals in order that they may better be able to maintain stable housing and become more self-sufficient.

5. CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Erie County Department of Mental Health will not be able to provide housing and supports for approximately 16 homeless mentally ill individuals and/or families.

6. STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF MEASURE

The County Executive will be authorized to sign the three year Agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development identified as rental assistance and supportive services for homeless persons disabled by serious mental illness. The Erie County Department of Mental Health will complete the RFP process to identify specific provider agency(ies) for this Grant. The Erie County Department of Mental Health will submit recommendations to transfer funds and to execute specific contracts for Legislative approval. Thereafter, the Erie County Department of Mental Health will execute contracts necessary to implement the Grant.

(Ref.#DMHMH-99.2)