

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

BARBARA MILLER-WILLIAMS

*Chair of the Legislature
3rd District Legislator*



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April 14, 2011

Robert M. Graber, Clerk
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin St., 4th Fl.
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Mr. Graber:

For clock-in to the public record I have attached a letter from Erie County Social Services Commissioner Carol Dankert concerning 2011 Erie County Youth Bureau funding.

Please direct this communication to the Health & Human Services Committee for its review of this communication.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Miller-Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Barbara Miller-Williams, Chair
Erie County Legislator, 3rd District

"We are here to serve the Community"



COUNTY OF ERIE

CHRIS COLLINS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 1, 2011

Barbara Miller-Williams
Legislator – 3rd District
427 William Street
Buffalo, NY 14204

Dear Legislator Miller-Williams:

In the coming weeks, you may receive correspondence from youth serving agencies in your district regarding their 2011 funding from the Erie County Youth Bureau. This letter is meant to serve as an update on Youth Bureau funding and as an informative tool in discussions with agency leaders.

In 2011, the Erie County Youth Bureau awarded full-year contracts to 49 Youth Development Delinquency Prevention (YDDP) agencies, 18 Special Delinquency Prevention Program (SDPP) agencies and 2 Runaway-Homeless Youth (RHY) agencies, totaling \$1,024,869. Of this money, 96.4% is funding from New York State through the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). The only county portion, 3.6% or \$47,464, is a required county match to Runaway Homeless youth providers.

The Erie County Youth Bureau contracts all of its eligible state aid to youth serving not-for-profit agencies in support of the quality community based service provision. In recent years, our funding streams, YDDP, SDPP and RHYA, have been reduced by 30%. Governor Cuomo's proposed New York State Budget included a proposal to eliminate Youth Bureau funding and their corresponding funding streams as of July 1, 2011. At that time, the Erie County Youth Bureau issued a letter to contracted agencies notifying them of the proposed elimination. In order to protect the County, the Youth Bureau limited agencies to claiming 1/3 of their 2011 award through April 30th.

The recently approved New York State budget contains funding for Youth Bureaus and their corresponding funding streams, but with at least a 25% reduction this year and another 25% reduction in 2012. Therefore, the Department of Social Services and the Erie County Youth Bureau will have to reduce all contracts with our partnering agencies by the percentage cut we receive from the state. We understand the important work our partnering agencies provide our youth. But we are left with no other choice at this point but to reduce their funding.

In addition, the approved budget will have an impact on our partnering agencies in 2012 and beyond. It is imperative for the Youth Bureau to fund agencies serving high need youth and providing critical services with strong performance measures based on Results Based Accountability. It is also important to support these agencies with an award that makes an impact to the agency. As a result of the reduction in funding from New York State, the Youth Bureau will reduce funding for partnering agencies by approximately 50% in 2012. While unfortunate, this will allow the Youth Bureau to continue funding approximately 30-35 community based agencies with reasonable awards, averaging around \$10,000. Prioritized program categories will be clearly identified in the 2012 RFP.

Please feel free to contact David Rust, Youth Bureau Director, at (716) 923-4041, or david.rust@erie.gov, with questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Carol Dankert, Commissioner
Erie County Department of Social Services