



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 2, 2014

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION REQUESTED**

**Re: Establish BIP Innovation Fund grant**

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization for the Department of Senior Services to accept \$738,276 in Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) Innovation Fund grant monies from the NY State Department of Health to undertake a pilot project with Kaleida Health, Erie County Medical Center Corporation, and People Inc. to assist hospital and nursing facility discharge planners in transferring Medicaid patients back to the community.

Should your Honorable Body require any further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Randy Hoak in the Department of Senior Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/mc  
Enclosure

cc: Randy Hoak, Commissioner, Department of Senior Services

## MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
From: Department of Senior Services  
Re: Establish BIP Innovation Fund grant  
Date: August 22, 2014

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### **SUMMARY**

Approve the attached resolution to accept \$738,276 in Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) Innovation Fund grant monies from the NY State Department of Health, for the period August 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. The funding will be used by the Department of Senior Services NY Connects program to undertake a pilot project with Kaleida Health, Erie County Medical Center Corporation (ECMCC) and People Inc., to assist hospital and nursing facility discharge planners in transferring Medicaid patients back to the community. The Department of Senior Services upon the passage of this resolution is proposing creating two positions, an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Representative and a Senior Statistical Clerk

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

No additional county funds are required. The grant is 100% funded by the Federal pass-through funds via NY State Health Department.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Medicaid spending increases when hospital and nursing facility Medicaid patients eligible for discharge remain in the facilities due to the lack of supports and services necessary for their successful transition back to the community. The Department of Senior Services through its NY Connects program is uniquely positioned to assist hospital and nursing facility discharge planners in shifting Medicaid patients back to the community and provide, through the Department's staff and subcontract agencies, the short term support services necessary to bridge the period between discharge and the date individuals are fully enrolled with a Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) plan to support their needs for Long Term Supports and Services (LTSS).

The continuity of care the NY Connects program will provide, beginning in the hospital or nursing facility and following the discharged individual back into the community until active with a MLTC plan, can reduce the likelihood of breakdowns at critical points along the continuum of care, and help produce better outcomes for LTSS consumers.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) Innovation Fund set aside \$45 million to support projects throughout NY State that increase the number of Medicaid recipients served in non-institutional settings; improve access to long term care services and supports; and promote sustainable strategies for addressing barriers to community living. Through a competitive process, the Department of Senior Services was selected to test a strategy

utilizing NY Connects as a bridge between the long term care facilities and in-home service providers, easing the process of putting services in place prior to discharge.

This pilot will include several tasks including: case-finding; options counseling and short term case management; service plan development and ordering; linking participants to programs that can help with special concerns including housing and mental health needs; and stewarding the diversion/transition process into community living until the client starts receiving services from a MLTC plan.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The Department of Senior Services will not be able to accept these funds for the benefit of residents in Erie County.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Department of Senior Services will establish the budget for the BIP Innovation Fund grant, and enter into memorandums of understanding with Kaleida Health and ECMCC to carry out the project. The Department of Senior Services will enter into a contract with People Inc for housing assistance support services and enter into new home care agency subcontracts with Community Concern of WNY Inc and Interim Healthcare of Rochester Inc. Also amending applicable agency subcontracts to utilize this additional funding to purchase necessary services for eligible clients of this project as well as processing related personnel actions.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR SERVICES**

**RE: Establish BIP Innovation  
Fund grant**

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services submitted a competitive grant application for NY State Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) Innovation Fund grant, to undertake a pilot project with Kaleida Health, Erie County Medical Center Corporation (ECMCC) and People Inc., to assist hospital and nursing facility discharge planners in transferring Medicaid patients back to the community; and

WHEREAS, the NY State Department of Health has awarded the Department of Senior Services a \$738,276 BIP Innovation Fund grant for the period August 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services will utilize a portion of these grant funds to create two new positions, an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Representative (job group 10) with primary responsibility for assisting clients, their families, and facility discharge planners in transitioning clients back to the community, and a Senior Statistical Clerk (job group 6) to perform the clerical support, and bookkeeping work of the grant; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services will enter into memorandums of understanding with grant application partners Kaleida Health and ECMCC to delineate the respective parties obligations regarding the BIP Innovation Fund grant project; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services will contract with grant application partner, People Inc to purchase housing assistance support services necessary to transition project eligible individuals back to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services currently contracts with a variety of subcontract agencies for the provision of various services and supports for eligible clients, including home care, adult day care, transportation, home delivered meals, and personnel emergency response systems; and desires to amend such contracts to utilize BIP Innovation Fund grant funds to purchase such services and supports for individuals eligible for this pilot project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the County Executive be and is hereby authorized to contract with the NY State Department of Health to accept the \$738,276 of BIP Innovation Fund grant funds for the period August 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Department of Senior Services is hereby authorized to create, two positions upon the passage of this resolution, an ADRC Representative (B100 #7909) and a Senior Statistical Clerk (B100 #7885), within the 163BIP1F1415 grant; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into memorandums of understanding with Kaleida Health and ECMCC to delineate the respective parties obligations regarding the BIP Innovation Fund grant project; and be it further

RESOLVED, the County Executive be and is hereby authorized to enter into a \$105,882 contract with grant application partner, People Inc. for housing assistance support services necessary to transition project eligible individuals back to the community; and be it further

RESOLVED, the County Executive be and is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with Community Concern of WNY Inc and Interim Healthcare of Rochester Inc to provide home care services in an aggregate amount not to exceed the amount appropriated in this grant budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, the County Executive be and is hereby authorized to enter into and/or amend contracts with existing Department of Senior Service subcontract agencies, (in an aggregate amount not to exceed the amount appropriated in this grant budget) and purchase necessary services from such agencies with BIP Innovation Fund grant to facilitate eligible pilot project clients return to the community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the budget for the BIP Innovation Fund Grant (163BIPIF1415), be established as follows:

APPROPRIATIONS		INITIAL BUDGET
Account	Description	
500000	Full Time Salaries	\$ 84,500
502000	Fringe Benefits	\$ 53,037
505000	Office Supplies	\$ 500
510000	Local Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 5,738
510200	Training & Education	\$ 200
516020	Professional Svcs Contracts & Fees	\$138,052
516023	Adult Day Care	\$ 75,768
516026	Home Care Services	\$180,400
516027	Meal Preparation	\$ 17,160
516028	Personnel Emergency Response	\$ 1,052
516030	Maintenance Contracts	\$ 600
516410	Lab & Tech Equipment	\$ 1,200
517755	People Inc.	\$105,882
530000	Other Expenses	\$ 56,732
916390	ID Senior Services Grants	<u>\$ 17,455</u>
	<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b><u>\$738,276</u></b>

REVENUES		INITIAL BUDGET
Account	Description	
414000	Federal Aid	<u>\$738,276</u>
	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>\$738,276</u></b>

RESOLVED, that, the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to adjust items of appropriations and revenues which may be impacted by changes to grantor awards; and be it further

RESOLVED and, if necessary, the County Executive is hereby authorized to execute amendments to the Department of Senior Services agencies contracts to effectuate adjusted funding levels; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive's Office, the Division of Budget and Management, the Comptroller's Office, and the Department Senior Services.