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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 19, 2015

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

Re: Acceptance of Direct Care Worker Program Funding

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Department of Senior Services requesting authorization to accept Direct Care Worker Program funding, from the New York State Office for the Aging, for the period January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016.

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

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

cc: Randall Hoak, Commissioner, Department of Senior Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Senior Services
Re: Acceptance of Direct Care Worker Program Funding
Date: June 19, 2015

SUMMARY

Approve the attached resolution to allow the Department of Senior Services to accept Direct Care Worker Program funds from the New York State Office of the Aging (NYSOFA), for the period January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional County funds required. The monies are 100% State funded.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The funding \$44,592 for the period January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015 and an additional, as yet undetermined, amount for the period April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016 will be used to help cover county employee's 2014 and 2015 union raises, as well as to provide increased funding to the Department's subcontract agencies for raises for their eligible direct care workers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Pursuant to Part I of Chapter 60 of the laws of 2014, NYSOFA is making available to local AAA's Direct Care Worker Program funding to be used solely to support salary and salary-related fringe benefit increases for direct care staff, direct support professionals and clinical staff, for the period January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

For the period January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015, the funds will reimburse AAA's for up to 2% of direct care worker raises or salary related fringe benefit increases that became effective on or after January 1, 2014. These raises will also continue to be reimbursed through March 31, 2016.

In addition the funds will also, for the period April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016, reimburse up to 2% of direct care worker raises or salary related fringe benefit increases that became effective on or after January 1, 2015.

By State statute, to receive the Direct Care Worker funding, AAAs and their contractors must complete a certification that requires their governing body to approve a resolution attesting that the funding received will be used solely to support salary and salary-related fringe benefit increases for direct care staff, direct support professionals, and clinical staff.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department of Senior Services would be unable to access these available funds to support programs serving Erie County's seniors.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Senior Services will contract with NYSOFA and establish the budget for the Direct Care Worker grant.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR SERVICES

RE: Acceptance of Direct Care Worker
Program Funding

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Part I of Chapter 60 of the laws of 2014, the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) is making available, to the Department of Senior Services, Direct Care Worker funding to be used solely to support salary and salary-related fringe benefit increases for direct care staff, direct support professionals, and clinical staff, for the period January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the \$44,592 of Direct Care Worker funding for the period January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015 and an additional, as yet undetermined, amount for the period April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, is 100% State funded; and

WHEREAS, for the period January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015, the funds will reimburse up to 2% of direct care worker raises or salary-related fringe benefit increases that became effective on or after January 1, 2014, with these raises then continuing to be reimbursed through March 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the funds will also, for the period April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016, reimburse up to 2% of direct care worker raises or salary-related fringe benefit increases that became effective on or after January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, to receive the Direct Care Worker funding, the department must complete a certification that requires the Erie County Legislature to approve a resolution attesting that the funding received will be used solely to support salary and salary-related fringe benefit increases for direct care staff, direct support professionals, and clinical staff; and

WHEREAS, the Department also desires to amend its agency contracts so as to provide the agencies with a portion of these Direct Care Worker funds; and

WHEREAS, a new Direct Care Worker (163DCW1516) grant, for the period January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 needs to be created to account for these Direct Care Worker funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the County Executive be and is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with NYSOFA to accept Direct Care Worker funding the period January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all NYSOFA Direct Care Worker funding received by the Department of Senior Services for the period January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016 be used solely to support salary and salary-related fringe benefit increases for direct care staff, direct support professionals and clinical staff, of the department and its subcontract agencies; and be it further

RESOLVED, the County Executive be and is hereby authorized to amend the Department's agency contracts, for the period January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016, to effectuate adjusted funding levels and provide eligible agencies with a portion of these Direct Care Worker funds; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the budget for the 163DCW1516 grant, be established as follows:

Revenues		Initial Budget
Account	Description	
409000	State Aid Revenues	<u>\$44,592</u>
	Total Revenues	<u>\$44,592</u>

Appropriations		Initial Budget
Account	Description	
516010	Contract Pymts Nonprofit Purch Svcs	\$29,592
916390	ID Senior Services Grant Services	<u>\$15,000</u>
	Total Appropriations	<u>\$44,592</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that, the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to adjust the budget as required to comply with the NYSOFA approved funding levels; and be it further.

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