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# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

August 28, 2015

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

**Re: Acceptance of TANF Domestic Violence Funds and Adjustment to Non-Residential Domestic Violence Contracts**

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department has been awarded an amount of $143,883 in 100% Federal share Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds to enhance non-residential services to victims of domestic violence. This proposed resolution authorizes the Department to amend the 2015 Adopted Budget and to expand existing contracts with State-approved community providers of non-residential services to victims of domestic violence.

The additional federal TANF funding has been awarded for contract expansion to vendors with existing State approval to deliver non-residential services to victims of domestic violence. The provisions of the award specifically prohibit the supplantation of existing funding agreements and also prohibit the use of funds for County government operations. Only new contractual services or expansion of existing contractual services are eligible for this funding. Furthermore, the vendors used must be among those named in the Department's Consolidated Services Plan (CSP) approved by the State. This proposed resolution seeks Legislative authority to waive section 19.08 of the County Administrative Code which otherwise requires that a Request for Proposals (RFP) be conducted.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Al Dirschberger at the Department of Social Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure
cc: Al Dirschberger, Department of Social Services

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
**From:** Department of Social Services
**Re:** Non-Residential Domestic Violence Contracts
**Date:** August 28, 2015

## SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department to amend contracts with five State-approved providers of non-residential services to victims of domestic violence to expand services by appropriating $143,883 in additional 100% Federal funds.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact to the 2015 Adopted Budget as a result of this resolution.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department has been awarded additional funding in the amount of $143,883 in 100% Federal share Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds to expand non-residential services to victims of domestic violence. Funding will also be utilized to add the position of Victim Advocate part time to the budget of the District Attorney. The advocate will be working in Buffalo City Court to provide referral and support services for victims of domestic violence.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Additional Federal TANF funding has been awarded for contract expansion for vendors with existing State approval to deliver non-residential services to victims of domestic violence. The provisions of the award specifically prohibit the supplantation of existing funding agreements and also prohibit the use of funds for County government operation. Vendors must also be among those named in the Department's Consolidated Services Plan (CSP) as approved by the State.

## CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

These important services could not be expanded.

## STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The budget will be amended and contract amendments will be executed to enable expansion of services.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

RE: Non-Residential Domestic Violence Contracts

WHEREAS, the Department has been awarded an amount of $143,883 in 100% Federal share Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds to enhance non-residential services to victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the additional federal TANF funding is awarded for contract expansion for vendors with existing State approval to deliver non-residential services to victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of the award specifically prohibit the supplantation of existing funding agreements and also prohibit the use of funds for County government operations; and

WHEREAS, only new contractual services or expansion of existing contractual services are eligible for this funding, and the vendors used must be among those named in the Department's Consolidated Services Plan (CSP) approved by the State; and

WHEREAS, the Department wishes to also reallocate unexpended funding in its 2015 budget to address the problem of domestic violence within our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Social Services and/or the County Executive are hereby authorized to enter into or amend contracts with Child and Family Services, Crisis Services, Hispanics United and the Family Justice Center for expanded non-residential services to victims of domestic violence and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments are hereby authorized in the 2015 Adopted Budget:

**Department of Social Services, Fund 110, Department 120**

| ACCOUNT | DESCRIPTION | | INCREASE/ (DECREASE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 516410 | Child and Family Services | | $37,592 |
| 516410 | Crisis Services | | $66,029 |
| 516410 | Family Justice Center | | $18,708 |
| 516410 | Hispanics United of Buffalo | | $5,803 |
| 911400 | ID District Attorney Services | | $15,751 |
| | | Total Expenditures | $143,883 |
| 414000 | Federal Aid | | $143,883 |
| | | Total Revenue | $143,883 |

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to add one position of Victim Advocate Part Time, job group 6, in the budget of the District Attorney, B-100 #8354; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a interdepartmental agreement be established between the District Attorney and Social Services for non-residential services to victims of domestic violence; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to increase the personnel, fringe benefit and interdepartmental budget of the District Attorney's Office to establish proper funding for the additional position; and be it further

RESOLVED, that because only State-approved providers of non-residential services to victims of domestic violence are eligible to receive these funds and because these special services are needed immediately, the County Administrative Code requirement in Section 19.08 for a Request for Proposals (RFP) is hereby waived and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the Commissioner of Social Services, the Erie County Comptroller, the Director of the Division of Budget and Management and the District Attorney.