



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

August 31, 2015

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

**Re: Authorization to Contract with University at Buffalo School of Social Work
Safety Net Assistance Population Study**

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a memorandum and proposed resolution authorizing the Erie County Executive and/or the Commissioner of Social Services to enter into a contract with the University at Buffalo. The University at Buffalo will provide a doctoral student from its School of Social Work to study the needs of recipients of Safety Net Assistance within Erie County. This information will then be used to make enhancements to programs administered by the Department of Social Services designed to assist these clients achieve self-sufficiency.

There is no fiscal impact to the 2015 Adopted Budget based on this resolution. No additional County local share funds are necessary. The existing appropriation in Account 516020, Professional Services Contracts and Fees, is sufficient to cover this expense.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

cc: Al Dirschberger, Department of Social Services

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

**RE: Authorization to Contract with University at Buffalo School of Social Work
Safety Net Assistance Population Study**

WHEREAS, Erie County has experienced an increase in the number of clients accessing the New York State-mandated Safety Net Assistance program over the last several years; and

WHEREAS, the county share of Safety Net Assistance funding is 71 percent, making this growth costly for County taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services has the opportunity to obtain the services of a doctoral student from the University at Buffalo School of Social Work to study the needs of recipients of Safety Net Assistance within Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the doctoral student receives a modest stipend for their work for the University at Buffalo School of Social Work; and

WHEREAS, there is no fiscal impact to the 2015 Adopted Budget based on this resolution and no additional County local share funds are necessary because the existing appropriation in 516020, Professional Services Contracts and Fees, is sufficient to cover this expense.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive and the Commissioner of Social Services are hereby authorized to enter into contract in the amount of \$16,000 with the University of Buffalo School of Social Work to obtain the services of a qualified doctoral candidate who will be paid an annual stipend by the University in the amount of \$16,000 for the work provided to the Department of Social Services, and be it further

RESOLVED, 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, and the Director of the Division of Budget and Management.

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Social Services
Re: Authorization to Contract with University at Buffalo School of Social Work
Safety Net Assistance Population Study
Date: August 31, 2015

SUMMARY

This resolution authorizes the County Executive and/or the Commissioner of Social Services to enter into a contract in the amount of \$16,000 with the University of Buffalo School of Social Work to obtain the services of a qualified doctoral candidate who will be paid an annual stipend by the University in the amount of \$16,000 for the work provided to the Department of Social Services

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact to the 2015 Adopted Budget based on this resolution. No additional County local share funds are necessary. The existing appropriation in Account 516020, Professional Services Contracts and Fees, is sufficient to cover this expense.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Social Services wants to have better information on the clients of the Safety Net Assistance program in order to make enhancements to programs designed to assist these individuals achieve self-sufficiency.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Erie County has experienced an increase in the number of clients accessing the New York State-mandated Safety Net Assistance program over the last several years. The county share of Safety Net Assistance funding is 71 percent, making this growth costly for County taxpayers. The Department of Social Services has the opportunity to obtain the services of a doctoral student from the University at Buffalo School of Social Work to study the needs of recipients of Safety Net Assistance within Erie County.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department of Social Services will have less information regarding recipients of Safety Net Assistance and will not be able to tailor programs to the needs of these clients.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Social Services Department will enter into a contract with the University at Buffalo.