

SUSPENSION



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

November 16, 2015

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

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION


Re: Indigent Legal Services Grant

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization to enter into a contract with the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services to accept grant funding for a three year period in the amount of \$1,350,000. Funds will be used to help improve the quality of representation to indigent defendants through the efforts of the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project's participation in the development and operation of a statewide network of Regional Immigration Assistance Centers.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Office of the County Attorney. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,


Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive
Dpty County Executive

MCP/map

SUSPENSION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
FROM: Office of the County Attorney
RE: Indigent Legal Services Grant
DATE: November 16, 2015

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Legislature authorize the County Executive to enter into a contract with the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services to accept grant funding in the amount of \$1,350,000. In addition, the resolution requests authorization to subcontract with the Erie County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project to deliver the services required through the grant.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications on the operating budget. All services will be fully reimbursed through New York State.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Legislative approval is required for the County Executive to enter into contract, establish grant budgets and enter into subcontracts with community agencies.

The New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services has made \$1,350,000 available to Erie County to improve the quality of representation provided to indigent defendants through the development of a statewide network of Regional Immigration Assistance Centers. Erie County will utilize the funds to improve services through the Erie County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project's participation in the development of a Regional Immigration Assistance Center. The Erie County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project will provide legal support, assistance, training and education services to public defenders and assigned counsel programs throughout 16 western counties in New York, including the Erie County Bar Association's Aid to Indigent Prisoners Society and the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo in Erie County.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve this resolution will serve to hinder the improvement of State mandated indigent legal services in Erie County.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Grant budgets will be established by the Division of Budget and Management. Contracts will be executed after final review by the Department of Law as to form.

SUSPENSION

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY: DEPARTMENT OF LAW

RE: Indigent Legal Services Grant

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services has awarded a three year grant totaling \$1,350,000 to the County for the provision of legal support, assistance, training and education services to indigent defense providers, and

WHEREAS, Erie County will contract with the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. to deliver the services required through the grant, and

WHEREAS, legislative approval is necessary to accept the grant and enter into contracts with the Erie County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into contract with the State of New York Office of Indigent Legal Services, in the amount of \$1,350,000 over three years from November 1, 2015 to October 31, 2018 to develop and operate a Regional Immigration Assistance Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into three year subcontracts with the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. to deliver said services from November 1, 2015 to October 31, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is provided to establish grant funding in the County Attorney's Office as follows:

Erie County Attorney's Office
Indigent Legal Services (ILS)
Grant Fund - 160RIAC1518
November 1, 2015 to October 31, 2018

Revenue	Increase
Account 409000 - State Aid Revenue	\$1,350,000
Appropriation	Increase
Account 517847 - Volunteer Lawyers Project	\$1,350,000

and be it further

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 the grantor award, provided there are no changes to authorized personnel levels and county share amounts: and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Attorney, Office of the Comptroller, County Executive and the Division of Budget and Management.

Comm. 21E-17

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