ECLEG JAN04'16 AM10:53

COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

December 31, 2015

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

Re: Safe Harbor for Exploited Children

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department has been awarded $109,000 in 100% State share funds to continue and enhance a program entitled Safe Harbor for Exploited Children. This proposed resolution authorizes the Department to amend the 2016 Adopted Budget and to renew a contract with the International Institute as the lead agency for this program funding. As this is the fourth year of a newly established program, 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.

The State legislature passed the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act. A key provision of the Act is to move sexually exploited youth from the criminal and juvenile justice systems to the family court where children and their families can receive support and services from the child welfare system. Services are to be provided to victims of sex trafficking, and core elements of the service include case management, emergency temporary housing, health care, mental health counseling, language interpretation and translation services, job training and placement and services to assist in establishing permanent residence.

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

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

cc: Al Dirschberger, Commissioner, Department of Social Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Social Services
Re: Safe Harbor for Exploited Children
Date: December 31, 2015

SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department to amend the 2016 Adopted Budget and to renew a contract with the International Institute as the lead agency for this program funding.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact to the 2016 Adopted Budget as a result of this resolution.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department has been awarded $109,000 in 100% State share funds to continue and enhance a program entitled Safe Harbor for Exploited Children. Services are to be provided to victims of sex trafficking and core elements of the service include case management, emergency temporary housing, health care, mental health counseling, language interpretation and translation services, job training and placement and services to assist in establishing permanent residence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The State legislature passed the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Actin. A key provision of the Act is to move sexually exploited youth from the criminal and juvenile justice systems to the family court where children and their families can receive support and services from the child welfare system. As this is the fourth year of a newly established program, 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.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

These important services could not be continued and enhanced.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The 2016 adopted budget will be amended and a contract will be renewed with International Institute for the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children program.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
SOCIAL SERVICES

RE: Safe Harbor for Exploited Children

WHEREAS, the Department has been awarded $109,000 in 100% State share funds to continue and enhance a program entitled Safe Harbor for Exploited Children; and

WHEREAS, a key provision of the Act is to move sexually exploited youth from the criminal and juvenile justice systems to the family court where children and their families can receive support and services from the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, services are to be provided to victims of sex trafficking and core elements of the service include case management, emergency temporary housing, health care, mental health counseling, language interpretation and translation services, job training and placement and services to assist in establishing permanent residence; and

WHEREAS, as this is the fourth year of a newly established program, 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; and

WHEREAS, this proposed resolution authorizes the Department to amend the 2016 Adopted Budget and to renew a contract with the International Institute as the lead agency for this program funding; and

WHEREAS, International Institute of Buffalo is the only local agency with the expertise and existing resources to carry out the program; and

WHEREAS, there is no local share fiscal impact to this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into contract with the State of New York to accept funding for the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Social Services and/or the County Executive are hereby authorized to enter into a subcontract with the International Institute in order to implement the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments are hereby authorized in the 2016 Adopted Budget:

Department of Social Services, Fund 110, Department 120

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE
517172	International Institute	$109,000
	Total Expenditures	$109,000
409000	State Aid	$109,000
	Total Revenues	$109,000

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.