

SUSPENSION



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 13, 2016

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

Re: Comprehensive Employment Division Staffing

Dear Honorable Members:

Certain recipients in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) who are considered Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) have fallen under new regulations effective January 1, 2016. As a result, the Department of Social Services Comprehensive Employment Division (CED) has begun to provide employment assessments to approximately 2,800 clients not previously required to comply with work activity assignments.

The attached resolution requests authorization to add five full time positions to the Department of Social Services Employment Division in order to meet program staffing requirements necessitated by the changes in the work requirements. The positions are fully reimbursed through newly awarded Federal funding allocated through New York State. Funding will also be available in 2017 for these positions.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark C. Poloncarz", is written over the typed name.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

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MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Social Services – Division of Family Independence
Re: Comprehensive Employment Program Staffing
Date: July 13, 2016

SUMMARY

The attached resolution requests authorization to add five full time positions to the Department of Social Services Employment Program in order to meet program staffing requirements necessitated by changes in SNAP eligibility requirements.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost of the five positions with a start date of August 1st, will be \$110,075. The positions are fully reimbursed through newly awarded Federal funding allocated through New York State. Funding will also be available in 2017 for these positions.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The new positions requested will provide proper employment assessments and client services in order to assure client compliance with work activity assignments.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Certain recipients in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) who are considered Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) have fallen under new regulations effective January 1, 2016. As a result, the Department of Social Services Comprehensive Employment Division (CED) has begun to provide employment assessments to approximately 2,800 clients not previously required to comply with work activity assignments. The SNAP Division has also increased their eligibility case screening for the ABAWD population. The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) provided Erie County with a jurisdictional waiver for the City of Buffalo until December 31, 2016. It is expected that OTDA will no longer issue a jurisdictional waiver in 2017. As a result of no longer being granted a waiver, Erie County will have to implement ABAWD regulations on an additional 8,000 clients.

In order to assure that all ABAWD recipients are complying with work activity assignments the Department is requesting the addition of one Senior Employment Counselor, two Employment Counselors and one Senior Clerk typist

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve this request will result in increased overtime in order to comply with work demands.

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STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Positions will be established and the budget adjusted in accordance with this resolution.

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A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

RE: Comprehensive Employment Program
Staffing

WHEREAS, certain recipients in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) who are considered Abled-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) have fallen under new regulations effective January 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the Department of Social Services Comprehensive Employment Division (CED) has begun to provide employment assessments to approximately 2,800 clients not previously required to comply with work activity assignments; and

WHEREAS, in order to comply with the increased work load the Department is requesting the addition of one Senior Employment Counselor, two Employment Counselors and one Senior Clerk typist; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services will be fully reimbursed through newly awarded Federal funding allocated through New York State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to create one Senior Employment Counselor, two Employment Counselors and one Senior Clerk typist in the Department of Social Services Comprehensive Employment Division effective August 1st 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, the authorization is hereby provided to adjust the 2016 Budget of the Department of Social Services as follows:

Department of Social Services Fund 110 - Fund Center 120	
Revenue	Increase
Acct. 410120 Federal Aid - SNAP ET 100%	\$110,075
Expense	
Acct. 500000 Full Time Salary	\$ 67,947
Acct. 502000 Fringe Benefits	<u>42,128</u>
Total Expense	\$110,075
Net (Revenue less Expense)	0

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and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the County Executive, the Division of Budget and Management, the Office of the Comptroller and the Department of Social Services.