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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 28, 2016

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

**Re: Department of Social Services
Division of Family Wellness
Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children
Increase in Funding Allocation**

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department has been awarded an increase of \$8,000 in 100% State share funds to continue and enhance a program entitled Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children. This is in addition to the \$109,000 awarded earlier this year, bringing the 2016 total to \$117,000. This proposed resolution authorizes the Department to amend the 2016 Adopted Budget and to increase its contract for the program with the International Institute.

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.

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 Sexually Exploited Children - Increase in Funding Allocation
Date: October 28, 2016

SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department to amend the 2016 Adopted Budget and to increase its 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 an additional \$8,000 in 100% State share funds to continue and enhance a program entitled Safe Harbor for Sexually 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. Earlier this year, the Legislature approved a resolution authorizing the Department accept \$109,000 and authorized it to enter into a contract with International Institute.

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 with International Institute for the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children program will be increased.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
SOCIAL SERVICES

RE: Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children
Increase in Funding Allocation

WHEREAS, the Department was awarded \$117,000 earlier this year in 100% State share funds to continue and enhance a program entitled Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children; and

WHEREAS, the Department has been awarded an additional \$8,000; and

WHEREAS, the Department has an existing contract with International Institute to administer this 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 Sexually Exploited Children program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Social Services and/or the County Executive are hereby authorized to increase the subcontract with the International Institute by \$8,000; 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	<u>\$8,000</u>
	Total Expenditures	<u>\$8,000</u>
409000	State Aid	<u>\$8,000</u>
	Total Revenues	<u>\$8,000</u>

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.