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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 Youth Services
Youth Bureau AmeriCorps VISTA**

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization to enter into contract with the Service Collaborative of WNY to provide an AmeriCorps VISTA member for a one year term beginning November 2016 at the Secure Detention Facility. The Youth Services Division has been awarded an AmeriCorps VISTA member by the Service Collaborative of WNY.

The cash match required by Youth Services to secure this position is \$8,000 for the one year term. The position is full-time and will be housed at Youth Services administrative offices. The Service Collaborative of WNY will provide a minimum \$19,602 in financial resources in support of this position.

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

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

cc: Al Dirschberger, Social Services Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Youth Services
Re: Youth Bureau AmeriCorps VISTA
Date: 10/28/16

SUMMARY

The Youth Services Division has been awarded an AmeriCorps VISTA member by the Service Collaborative of WNY for one year term beginning in November of 2016. The VISTA member will develop systems and collaborative networks to improve the ability and capacity of funded youth-serving agencies to collect both individual and county-wide aggregate data on youth being served and their successful outcomes.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The cash match required by Youth Services to secure this position is \$8,000 for the one year term. The position is full-time and will be housed at Youth Services administrative offices. The Service Collaborative of WNY will provide at minimum \$19,602 in financial resources in support of this position. The monies have been appropriated in the Youth Services budget line 516020 – Professional Services

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Encouraging collaboration, resource sharing and efficient delivery of services is a priority of the Erie County Youth Services Division. The VISTA member will work directly with representatives from 60-80 agencies and local youth bureaus who receive funding from Youth Services to facilitate these collaborations. The VISTA will also assist in the ongoing development systems meant to collect data and measure outcomes and the impact of positive youth development programs being supported by Erie County funds. Having an individual dedicated to these initiatives will greatly help to further the mission of delivering the highest quality services to the youth of Erie County.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Youth Services had AmeriCorps VISTA members in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Serve New York mobilizes AmeriCorps VISTA members to serve organizations, government agencies, and educational institutions focused on the needs of veteran and military families, improving and expanding educational opportunities, ensuring economic opportunity for all, and creating healthy futures to the residents of NY. The goal of Serve New York is to strengthen communities across the State, and to allow organizations within them to better provide services to impoverished individuals and families. The Serve New York program has partner organizations in Buffalo, Rochester, Lyons, Ithaca, Geneva, and White Plains. While serving, members receive support from the VISTA team at The Service Collaborative of WNY, Inc. The support includes monthly trainings, a social network of fellow members, and daily support from VISTA leaders.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Youth Services will not be able accept the awarded VISTA position.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Contracts and/or contract amendments reflecting the additional funds will be executed for each agency.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION

RE: Youth Bureau AmeriCorps VISTA

WHEREAS, the Youth Services Division has been awarded an AmeriCorps VISTA member by the Service Collaborative of WNY. The VISTA member will develop systems and collaborative networks to improve the ability and capacity of funded youth-serving agencies to collect both individual and county-wide aggregate data on youth being served and their successful outcomes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into a contract in the not to exceed amount of \$8,000 with the Service Collaborative of WNY to accept the AmeriCorps Vista member, funding being available in account 516020, professional services, of the Youth Services Division; 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, and the Division of Youth Services.