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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 9, 2016

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

Re: Code Blue - Homelessness during Inclement Winter Weather

Dear Honorable Members:

In February 2016, your Honorable Body approved Communication 3E-15 which provided authorization to accept reimbursement and enter into contract with the State of New York in order to comply with Executive Order 151-Emergency Declaration Regarding Homelessness during Inclement Winter Weather. Communication 3E-15 also provided authorization to subcontract with the City Mission and Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y for the provision of housing and warming services for the homeless.

This resolution seeks approval to fund a third agency, the Rural Outreach Center, which was approved for funding in the final State grant and to also adjust reimbursement rates for the City Mission.

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,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Social Services – Division of Family Independence
Re: Code Blue - Homelessness during Inclement Winter Weather
Date: May 9, 2016

SUMMARY

In February 2016, your Honorable Body approved Communication 3E-15 which provided authorization to accept reimbursement and enter into contract with the State of New York in order to comply with Executive Order 151-Emergency Declaration Regarding Homelessness during Inclement Winter Weather. Communication 3E-15 also provided authorization to sub contract with the City Mission and Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y for the provision of housing and warming services for the homeless.

This resolution seeks approval to fund a third agency, the Rural Outreach Center, which was approved for funding in the final State grant and to also adjust reimbursement rates for the City Mission.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal implications are expected as the Department of Social Services is fully reimbursed by New York State.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

This resolution will bring the Department of Social Services in compliance with Executive Order 151.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Erie County Department of Social Services has received final State approval in the amount of \$174,159 for the Homelessness during Inclement Winter Weather Communication funding from the State of New York. Included in the funding is reimbursement for a third agency the Rural Outreach Center in addition to the funding for the City Mission and Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y. Also, the State has provided funds for a higher reimbursement rate for the City Mission for only the first week that Code Blue was in effect. The City Mission will receive \$1,537 per day for the first seven days of Code Blue and \$1,400 per day thereafter.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Erie County will not be in compliance with Executive Order 151 and not fulfilling its mandated responsibilities.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Erie County will enter into contracts with City Mission, the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y., and the Rural Outreach Center.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
FAMILY INDEPENDENCE DIVISION

RE: Code Blue - Homelessness during Inclement
Winter Weather

WHEREAS, the Governor of New York State issued Executive Order 151 - Emergency Declaration Regarding Homelessness During Inclement Winter Weather; and

WHEREAS, this Executive Order adds significant new responsibilities to the Department of Social Services when temperatures decline to 32 degrees or below, including extending shelter hours, allowing individuals who are homeless to remain indoors, instructing homeless service outreach workers to work with other relevant personnel and working with local police in relation to the involuntarily transport of at-risk individuals who refuse to go inside and who appear to be at-risk for cold related injuries to appropriate facilities for assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services is fully reimbursed by New York State for activities which bring it in compliance with this Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, Communication 3E-15 recently approved by your Honorable Body provided authorization to accept reimbursement and enter into contract with the State of New York in order to comply with Executive Order 151-Emergency Declaration Regarding Homelessness During Inclement Winter Weather; and

WHEREAS, Communication 3E-15 also provided authorization to subcontract with the City Mission and Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y for the provision of housing and warming services for the homeless; and

WHEREAS, the final State approved reimbursement included a third agency the Rural Outreach Center and also authorized a higher reimbursement rate per day for the City Mission for only the first week of this program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into contract with the Rural Outreach Center for the implementation of programs designed to comply with Executive Oder 151 for Erie County Code Blue events at the rate of \$500 per day for 20 days maximum; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Erie County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into contract with the City Mission to house homeless individuals at night when temperatures are between 15 and 32 degrees at a cost of \$1,537 per day for the first seven days of the program and \$1,400 per weather event thereafter; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Erie County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y. to house homeless individuals during the day when temperatures decline to 32 degrees or below at a cost of \$700 per weather event; 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.