



ECLEO 05003 019 AM 2018

# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

December 3, 2018

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Department of Social Services  
Department of Environment and Planning  
Healthy Homes Erie County**

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services and the Department of Environment and Planning are requesting authorization to enter into a contract with People Inc. to administer Healthy Homes Erie County. Healthy Homes Erie County will provide enhanced services to integrate home-based health and safety funding and programs to increase effectiveness in terms of health outcomes and more efficient in terms of cost savings. Healthy Homes Erie County is a pilot program that will focus its work within Erie County's Community Development Block Grant consortium area. In addition, the resolution will allocate a portion of Erie County's 2018 anti-poverty allocation to bolster Department of Environment and Planning housing programs.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Social Services Commissioner Marie Cannon and Environment and Planning Commissioner Tom Hersey. 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:** Department of Social Services  
Department of Environment and Planning  
**Re:** Healthy Homes Erie County  
**Date:** December 3, 2018

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### **SUMMARY**

The Department of Social Services and the Department of Environment and Planning are requesting authorization to enter into a contract with People Inc. to administer Healthy Homes Erie County. Healthy Homes Erie County will provide enhanced services to integrate home-based health and safety funding and programs to increase effectiveness in terms of health outcomes and more efficient in terms of cost savings. Healthy Homes Erie County is a pilot program that will focus its work within high-poverty neighborhoods in Erie County's Community Development Block Grant consortium area. In addition, the resolution will allocate a portion of Erie County's 2018 anti-poverty allocation to bolster Department of Environment and Planning housing programs.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There was \$500,000 designated in the 2018 Department of Environment and Planning budget for Poverty Initiatives. This resolution will transfer a portion of that funding into the Department of Social Services budget and the Department of Environment and Planning. No additional funding is necessary.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Departments of Social Services and Environment and Planning both provide services to families in need – Social Services by providing financial, nutrition and energy assistance, and Environment and Planning provides assistance for housing rehabilitation. However, there has not been meaningful collaboration between the two entities to coordinate services. This program will be an opportunity for the two Departments to coordinate services and programs.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The County Executive and County Legislature appropriated funding in the 2018 budget for anti-poverty efforts. At the direction of the Poverty Committee, an initiative was developed to provide comprehensive housing assistance to communities with increased level of poverty. The project will include two components: development of an initiative, Healthy Homes Erie County, based on the nationally recognized Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, and bolster existing housing programs administered by the Department of Environment and Planning.

#### Healthy Homes Erie County

The component of the program modeled after the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative will align and coordinate public and private funding sources and programs for weatherization, lead hazard

control, asthma control, and other home health and safety interventions in low income homes. Homes with vulnerable populations such as children and seniors are given priority. Under this model, comprehensive whole-house solutions replace a piecemeal approach that has been based more on government silos than on the needs of children and families.

#### Environment and Planning Housing Programs

The Erie County Department of Environment and Planning administers the federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for the Erie County Community Development Consortium. The Consortium is comprised of 34 towns and villages in Erie County.

The Rental Rehabilitation program was established to allow rental property owners to make essential housing repairs for rental properties. At least 51% of households in a rental property must be low income in order for the owner of property to qualify for the program. An example would be in a 3 unit rental property at least two of the three units must be occupied by low income households. Renovations generally include roof replacement, window and door replacement, lead remediation if found to be necessary and interior repairs to ensure each rental unit is free from code violations. The total amount of assistance is \$15,000 per rental unit per property.

The Mobile Home repair program was established to allow owners of mobile homes to make essential housing repairs to their properties. The owner must have an income of less than 50% of the county median income in order to qualify for the program. Renovations generally include roof replacement, window and door replacement, and essential interior repairs to ensure the unit is free from code violations. The total amount of assistance is \$5,000 per unit.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The County will not be able to proceed with initiating this program.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The County will enter into a contract with People, Inc. for this program.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND  
ENVIORNMENT AND PLANNING

Re: Healthy Homes Erie County

WHEREAS, there was \$500,000 designated in the 2018 Erie County Budget for Poverty Initiatives; and

WHEREAS, at the direction of the Poverty Committee, an initiative was developed to integrate home-based health and safety funding and programs within Erie County Community Development Block Grant consortium area; and

WHEREAS, an initiative was developed, Healthy Homes Erie County, that Initiative will align and coordinate public and private funding sources and programs for weatherization, lead hazard control, asthma control, and other home health and safety interventions in low income homes; and

WHEREAS, homes with vulnerable populations such as children and seniors are given priority; and

WHEREAS, participation in the program is limited to low-income individuals; and

WHEREAS, a Request-for-Proposal was issued for the Healthy Homes Erie County initiative and People Inc. was deemed the best respondent.

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Planning administers the Rental Rehabilitation Program and the Mobile Home Repair program; and

WHEREAS, the initiative will allocate \$100,000 to each of those programs to allow for Environment and Planning's housing programs can take part in the Healthy Homes Erie County initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE; BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with People Inc. to administer the Health Homes Erie County program through the Department of Social Services in the amount of \$300,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to reappropriate 2018 remaining balances of the Health Homes Erie County program contract into 2019 in order to provide uninterrupted services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that funding provided to the Department of Environment and Planning shall be established in a separate project and distributed to the Rental Rehabilitation Program in

the amount of \$100,000 and to the Mobile Home Repair program in the amount of \$100,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to the Director of Budget and Management to make the following 2018 Budget adjustments to implement the program 2018;

Fund 110 - Fund Center 1332010  
Community Neighborhood Development

Account	Decrease
Expense	
516030 Poverty Initiatives	\$500,000

Fund 110 - Fund Center 120  
Department of Social Services

Account	Increase
516030 Poverty Initiatives	\$300,000

Fund 110 - Fund Center 14020  
County Interfund Accounts

575000 Interfund Expense Non-Subsidy	<u>\$200,000</u>
Total Increase	<u>\$500,000</u>
Net Change	\$0

Fund 290 - Fund Center 162  
DEP – Home Repair and Rehabilitation

Account	Increase
Revenue	
450000 Interfund Revenue Non-Subsidy	\$200,000
Expense	
516020 Professional Services	\$200,000
Net Change	\$0

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, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Environment and Planning.