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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 31, 2020

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: Department of Social Services
Authorization to Accept Funds
Expansion of the Child Care Assistance Program**

Dear Honorable Members:

Erie County has been awarded an additional \$2 million by the New York State Office of Child and Family Services for the Expansion of the Child Care Assistance Program. These funds can only be used to expand the availability of subsidized child care. The purpose of this resolution is to authorize the Department of Social Services to accept the funds and appropriate it towards its intended purpose.

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

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

cc: Marie Cannon, Commissioner, Department of Social Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Social Services Department
Re: Authorization to Accept Funds
Expansion of the Child Care Assistance Program
Date: January 31, 2020

SUMMARY

The purpose of this resolution is to authorize the Department of Social Services to accept \$2 million from the New York State Office of Child and Family Services and appropriate it towards its expanding the availability of subsidized child care.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This resolution authorizes the Erie County Department of Social Services to accept \$2 million to expand its subsidized child care program. Erie County expects this funding to continue in future years.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The cost of child care is extremely high for many working families. In recognition of that fact, a goal of the Live Well Erie plan is, "Families in Erie County will have access to quality, affordable childcare." Additional funding from New York State will allow Erie County to support more children in child care and pay child care providers the most recent market rate.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Subsidized child care is available to working families in Erie County who earn less than or equal to 200 percent of the federal poverty limit. Erie County receives funds for this program through the New York State Child Care Block Grant. Erie County initially was designated to receive \$26,567,598 in its 2019-2020 Child Care Block Grant allocation. New York State then allocated funds to expand this program to Counties that agree to expand the availability of subsidized child care.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Fewer families would receive a child care subsidy. Erie County would not be able to increase the rate it pays child care providers.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Social Services will accept the funds.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

RE: Authorization to Accept Funds
Expansion of the Child Care Assistance Program

WHEREAS, the cost of child care is extremely high for many working families, with recent studies suggesting that child care costs exceed 10 percent of family income for one in four families; and

WHEREAS, subsidized child care is available to working families in Erie County who earn less than or equal to 200 percent of the federal poverty limit; and

WHEREAS, Erie County receives funds for this program through the New York State Child Care Block Grant; and

WHEREAS, Erie County initially was designated to receive \$26,567,598 in its 2019-2020 Child Care Block Grant allocation; and

WHEREAS, New York State has allocated funds to expand this program to Counties that agree to expand the availability of subsidized child care; and

WHEREAS, Erie County is eligible for an additional \$2 million for this expansion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with the State of New York to accept funding to expand the subsidized child care program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to make any required budget adjustment to accept the funds and allocate it for its specified purpose, including establishing a grant in Fund 281; and be it further

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