

Executive Order #018
Erie County Construction Project Bid Documents Shall Include
Local and Disadvantaged Worker Requirements

Whereas, Erie County annually appropriates over \$25,000,000 in tax dollars for expenditures related to public works construction projects; and

Whereas, Erie County awards contracts to private firms to provide the construction services associated with budgeted projects; and

Whereas, while unemployment in Erie County as a whole is comparable to other metropolitan regions in the United States, the unemployment rate within certain zip codes located in Erie County is as high as 21.7% and the poverty rate as high as 44.7%; and

Whereas, there are 182,200 working age individuals in the region who are either unemployed or underemployed and seeking work; and

Whereas, low-income or otherwise disadvantaged individuals residing in Erie County experience higher rates of unemployment compared to other individuals;

Whereas, the purpose of this order is to foster construction employment opportunities for qualified local residents, underemployed individuals or otherwise disadvantaged workers on those construction projects located within the geographic boundaries of Erie County which are bid by the County of Erie (“Erie County construction project(s)”).

Now, Therefore, I, Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Erie County’s Charter Sections 301 and 302, do hereby order as follows:

1. It is ordered that on and after April 30, 2018, all bids for Erie County construction projects initiating out of the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning Division of Sewerage Management and on and after October 1, 2017, all other bids for Erie County construction projects wherever so initiated, and all associated contracts involving an expenditure of \$250,000 or greater which utilize not less than three workers to complete the project shall require that:

- a) Entirely 100% of work hours performed by residents of New York State on an Erie County construction project will be worked by residents of the Local Labor Area (Erie County, Niagara County, Chautauqua County, Cattaraugus County, Allegany County, Wyoming County, Genesee County, Orleans County).
- b) At least 70% of total work hours performed by residents of New York State on an Erie County construction project will be worked by residents of the County of Erie.
- c) For the remainder of the calendar year subsequent to the effective date of this Order as specified above in Section 1, and for the entirety of the calendar year that follows, at least 20% of total work hours performed by residents of New York State, which percentage may be wholly or partly included within the hourly requirement contained in sub-section (b) above, used on an Erie County construction project will be worked by residents of Erie County who reside in zip codes with a poverty rate of 20% or higher,

and/or, in any ratio, disadvantaged workers who reside in Erie County. A disadvantaged worker is a resident who has a household income below 50% of the Area Median Income (“AMI”); or has been released from prison within the last 10 years; or participates in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program; or participates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; or has been unemployed for at least 12 consecutive months. On the first day of the second full calendar year from such effective date and continuing thereafter, the applicable percentage of total work hours performed referenced in this subsection above will move upward from 20% to 30%. The applicable zip codes as referenced above will be determined annually by the Erie County Division of Equal Employment Opportunity and will be provided to potential contractors in all request for bids documents; and

2. It is further ordered that work hours performed by individuals residing outside of New York State will not be included in the requirements set forth above; and

3. It is further ordered that where an Erie County construction project is funded in whole or in part with Federal Highway Administration monies, those projects are exempt from the requirements specified above to avoid conflict with federal law or regulation; and

4. It is further ordered that failure to adhere to the requirements herein, as further delineated in all formal construction contracts and any rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to Section 5 below, will constitute grounds for immediate termination of the underlying contract and will further result in the Contractor being deemed a non-responsible bidder for a period of twelve months. Once grounds for immediate termination are established, actual contract termination will be at the discretion of Erie County; and

5. It is further ordered that the Erie County Department of Law must promulgate, and update annually where necessary, separate formal rules and regulations with respect to implementation of the requirements contained herein as applied respectively and distinctly to Erie County construction projects initiating out of the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning Division of Sewerage Management and to Erie County construction projects wherever else so initiated. The Erie County Department of Law must also assure compliance with this Executive Order within the contract approval process; and

6. It is further ordered that the Erie County Division of Equal Employment Opportunity establish a procedure for compliance monitoring and periodic auditing of construction contractor hiring rates.

Given, under my hand and the Privy Seal of the County of Erie in the City of Buffalo this twenty seventh day of September, in the year two thousand seventeen.

County of Erie

By: _____

Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Executive