



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

EC LEG OCT 31 '22 AM 10:31

October 28, 2022

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

**Re: Authorization to Accept Grant Funding and Enter into Contract
Due to Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Award for Co-Response Team (CRT)
Program**

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find attached a resolution requesting legislative authorization to accept grant funding from BJA and to enter into a contract with Endeavor Health Services (aka Mid-Erie Mental Health Services) in order to plan and implement the enhancement and expansion of cross-system collaboration in Erie County to improve public safety responses and outcomes.

If your Honorable Body requires any further information, please contact Commissioner Mark O'Brien at the Department of Mental Health. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/dvs
Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Mental Health
Re: Authorization to Accept Grant Funding and Enter into Contract Due to Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Award for Co-Response Team (CRT) Program
Date: October 28, 2022

SUMMARY

Legislative authorization is requested to accept \$550,000 for the period 10/1/22 – 9/30/25 in funding from BJA to establish a grant budget and to create a new contract with Endeavor Health Services (aka Mid-Erie Mental Health Services) specifically to plan and implement the enhancement and expansion of cross-system collaboration in Erie County to improve public safety responses and outcomes for individuals with mental health disorders (MHDs) or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders (MHSUDs) who come into contact with the justice system.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No County tax levy is necessary to support this request. The funding for this action will come from a combination of BJA funding (\$550,000) and \$231,250 of match from the Department of Mental Health (pre-existing authorized state aid) and the sub-awardee, for a total of \$781,250 over the three-year period.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

BJA has awarded the Erie County Department of Mental Health (ECDMH) \$550,000 for a three-year period beginning 10/1/22. There are two main goals of this project: (1) To plan and implement a comprehensive collaboration co-response (CRT) program and (2) To advance racial equity and support for underserved communities.

Goal 1: The establishment of the CRT program actually involves two phases, a planning phase and an implementation phase. The planning phase includes the creation of a best practice model to enhance evidence-based practice (EBP) CRT services, along with a training component to enhance officer knowledge and skills. The implementation phase will aim to expand the CRT capacity in high need areas, evaluate to inform cross-system practices and policies, followed by a sustainment component with a focus on continuing program operations.

Goal 2: Will be achieved by engaging citizens through officer outreach and by building positive community relations.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Erie County as a community would be unable to implement the services as outlined above. More specifically, police are the default first responders in most mental health crisis situations worldwide, resulting in a heavy burden on law enforcement. That said, we all suffer unless we equip them with the best possible tools available, derived from the most up-to-date EBP models that exist.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Mental Health will work with the Division of Budget and Management and the Comptroller's Office to establish the grant, and then will monitor the specific outcomes being delivered from the resultant contract with Endeavor Health Services. Furthermore, ECDMH will be diligent in its efforts to comply with all requirements as outlined in the related grant award agreement.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Re: Authorization to Accept Grant Funding and Enter into Contract Due to Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Award for Co-Response Team (CRT) Program

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health is responsible for the delivery of a comprehensive range of mental and behavioral health services for the residents of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health has been awarded \$550,000 over a three-year period beginning 10/1/22 by BJA in order to plan and implement the enhancement and expansion of cross-system collaboration to improve public safety responses and outcomes for Erie County residents with mental health disorders (MHDs) or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders (MHSUDs) who come into contact with the justice system; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health thus requires legislative approval to accept the Federal funds and to establish a grant budget in Fund 281; and

WHEREAS, no County funds will be necessary for Erie County to accept this federal aid to serve these high-risk individuals residing in Erie County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby authorize the County Executive to accept BJA grant funds and to have the Department of Mental Health oversee the provision of related services by contracting with Endeavor Health Services and thus authorizes the Division of Budget and Management to establish a grant as follows:

Erie County Department of Mental Health
Grant Fund 281, Fund Center 12410
October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2025
124BJACRT2225

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Account 414000 – Federal Aid	\$550,000
<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Account 517717 – Mid Erie MH Srvcs OMH	\$550,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body has previously approved of the County’s entering into contract with the aforementioned existing provider; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to adjust items of appropriations and revenues which may be impacted by changes to the grantor award, provided there are no changes to county share amounts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be furnished to the: Office of the County Executive, Department of Mental Health, Office of the Comptroller, Department of Law and the Division of Budget and Management.