



EC LEG OCT 31 '22 AM 10:31

COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 31, 2022

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

Re: Department of Social Services – Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services has been awarded \$43,350 in 100% State funds as a graduated community in the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children program. This proposed resolution authorizes the Department to amend the 2022 Adopted Budget and to renew a contract with the International Institute as the lead agency for this program funding.

As the International Institute has been the lead agency for this program for the duration of this program, this proposed resolution seeks Legislative authority to waive section 19.08 of the County Administrative Code which otherwise requires that a Request for Proposals (RFP) be conducted. International Institute was re-awarded this contract for 2021 after a Request for Proposal.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Marie Cannon at the Department of Social Services. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mmk
Enclosure

cc: Commissioner of Social Services Marie Cannon

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Social Services
Re: Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children
Date: October 31, 2022

SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to amend the 2022 Adopted Budget and renew a contract with the International Institute as the lead agency for the Safe Harbor program funding.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This resolution authorizes the acceptance of \$43,350 of State funds and to enter into a contract with the International Institute of Buffalo in the amount of \$43,350 for the provision of services for the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children program.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Regulations and legislation at the Federal and State Level require local districts to respond to and prevent sex trafficking. The International Institute of Buffalo is the area agency with expertise in human trafficking and sex trafficking of minors. Since 2015 the International Institute has enhanced the Department of Social Services programs through their services.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

These important services could not be continued.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The 2022 adopted budget will be amended and a contract established with International Institute for the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children program.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Re: Safe Harbor for Exploited Children

WHEREAS, a key provision of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act is to move sexually exploited youth from the criminal and juvenile justice systems to the family court where children and their families can receive support and services from the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, services are to be provided to victims of sex trafficking and core elements of the service include case management, emergency temporary housing, health care, mental health counseling, language interpretation and translation services, job training and placement and services to assist in establishing permanent residence; and

WHEREAS, International Institute of Buffalo has been the lead agency for this program since its inception and is the only local agency with the expertise and existing resources to carry out the program; and

WHEREAS, International Institute of Buffalo was re-awarded this contract in 2021 after a request-for-proposal, and the next scheduled request for proposal for this program is scheduled for 2024; and

WHEREAS, a gradual decrease in State funding over the past few years has required additional county funding to operate this valuable program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into contract with the State of New York to accept funding for the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Social Services and the County Executive are hereby authorized to enter into contract with the International Institute of Buffalo in the amount of \$43,350 for the provision of services for the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments are hereby authorized in the 2022 Adopted Budget in order to establish State funding for the Safe Harbor program:

Department of Social Services - 2020 Budget
Fund 110

Revenue	Increase
409000 State Aid	\$43,350
Expense	
516400 Preventive Agencies - International Institute	\$43,350

Net County Cost

0

;and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to make any additional budget adjustment which may be required in order to match expense with State funding allocation adjustments, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the Commissioner of Social Services, the Erie County Comptroller, and the Director of the Division of Budget and Management.