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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February 10, 2023

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

RE: Acceptance of Grant Award from Rockefeller Philanthropy Associates

Dear Honorable Members:

The Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) has received a one-time grant award in the amount of \$25,000 from the Rockefeller Philanthropy Associates. The purpose of this grant is to purchase equipment to expand telehealth services between residents and providers.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, please contact Commissioner of Health Gale Burstein. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/jah
Enclosure

cc: Dr. Gale Burstein, Commissioner of Health

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Health
Re: Acceptance of Grant Award from Rockefeller Philanthropy Associates
Date: February 10, 2023

SUMMARY

ECDOH has received a grant award in the amount of \$25,000 from the Rockefeller Philanthropy Associates to expand telehealth services. This grant matches the funds granted by New York State in 2022 to expand telehealth services. When combined, the funds will be used to purchase telehealth equipment for two mobile units to provide care in the community and telehealth equipment for the Jesse Nash Health Center located at 608 William Street in Buffalo.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Positive. Erie County will accept \$25,000 into the Health Division's General Fund Budget for the purposes of purchasing of equipment to expand telehealth services.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended to approve this resolution because it matches an existing grant which in total will expand telehealth services for residents in Erie County. These services are increasing in demand from both patients and providers and the COVID-19 pandemic showed the disparity of high-speed internet access within the community. Equipment purchased will be available to both patients of the clinic, providers, and residents of the community to reach their own providers.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Not expanding telehealth services will continue to be a health equity issue for residents who need access to health services and may not have accessible or reliable high-speed internet.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Erie County Department of Health will work with the Division of Budget and Management to accept the grant award into its General Fund Budget and establish a funds reservation for the purchase of equipment. Then, ECDOH will work with the Division of Purchasing to purchase the equipment.

**RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Re: Acceptance of Grant Award from Rockefeller Philanthropy Associates

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed many disparities between communities including access to high-speed internet; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuous and increasing demand for telehealth services from both patients and healthcare providers; and

WHEREAS, Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) was awarded from the Rockefeller Philanthropy Associates to purchase equipment to increase telehealth services in Erie County; and

WHEREAS, these funds, with the ECDOH's previous award from New York State for \$25,000, will specifically be increasing telehealth services by purchasing the necessary equipment for two mobile units utilized by ECDOH and equipment for the Jesse Nash Health Center that will be accessible to patients, providers, and residents to connect with their own providers; and

WHEREAS, this grant in the amount of \$25,000 and requires no local funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the Department of Health to enter into contract with Rockefeller Philanthropy Associates for the acceptance of a \$25,000 grant award and amend the 2023 General Fund Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 12700) as follows:

Health Division
Fund 110, Funds Center 12700

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
479100	Other Contributions	<u>\$25,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$25,000</u>
<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
561410	Lab & Technical Equipment	<u>\$25,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$25,000</u>

; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, and to the Commissioner of the Department of Health.