



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

35 JUN 2 2025 1:23

May 2, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Acceptance of State Aid for Safe Harbour for Sexually Exploited Children

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services has been awarded \$40,000 in 100% State funds as a graduated community in the Safe Harbour for Exploited Children program. This proposed resolution authorizes the Department to amend the 2025 Adopted Budget and to enter into contract with Child and Family Services as the lead agency for this program funding.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mmk
Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Social Services
Re: Acceptance of State Aid for Safe Harbour for Sexually Exploited Children
Date: May 2, 2025

SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to amend the 2025 Adopted Budget and enter into contract with Child and Family Services as the lead agency for the Safe Harbour program funding.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This resolution authorizes the acceptance of \$40,000 of State funds and to enter into a contract with Child and Family Services in the amount of \$40,000 for the provision of services for the Safe Harbour 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 New York State Safe Harbour program funds are intended to support all youth identified as trafficked, sexually exploited, or being at risk up to the age of 21. A youth's eligibility for services or support funded through Safe Harbour: NY is not contingent on any demographic factors or other personal characteristics such as immigration status, the source of the referral, or the youth's involvement in child welfare or juvenile justice system(s). Child and Family Services is the area agency with expertise in human trafficking and sex trafficking of minors.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

These important services could not be continued.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The 2025 adopted budget will be amended and a contract established with Child and Family Services for the Safe Harbour for Exploited Children program.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Re: Acceptance of State Aid for Safe Harbour for Sexually 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, Child and Family Services is the only local agency with the expertise and existing resources to carry out the program; and

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

WHEREAS, Child and Family Services is the current contract holder for the Safe Harbour program; and

WHEREAS, there is no additional local share necessary for this award, and there is no fiscal impact based on this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to accept \$40,000 in State Aid from the NYS Office of Child and Family Services to provide Safe Harbour services and amend the Department of Social Services 2025 Operating Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 1209010) as follows:

Department of Social Services
Fund 110, Funds Center 1209010

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
409000	State Aid Revenue	<u>\$40,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$40,000</u>
<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
516400	Preventative Agencies—Child and Family Services	<u>\$40,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$40,000</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into contract with Child and Family Services in the amount of \$40,000 for the provision of services for the Safe Harbour for Exploited Children program, waiving the procedures in Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization hereby given to the Director of Budget and Management to make any technical adjustments necessary to effectuate this resolution; and be it further

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