



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

19 MAY 2 '25 PM 1:23

May 2, 2025

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

Re: Authorization to Establish Contracts for Foster Care Alumni Support

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services is seeking approval to establish contracts with Gateway Longview and the Community Action Organization of Western New York (CAO) to provide supports to Foster Care Alumni.

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 that reads "Mark Poloncarz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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: Authorization to Establish Contracts for Foster Care Alumni Support
Date: May 2, 2025

SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to enter into contracts with Gateway Longview and Community Action Organization of Western New York (CAO) to provide supports for Foster Care Alumni.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding for this appropriation was included in the 2024 Adopted Budget and the funds will be carried forward into the 2025 Budget year through Budget Balancing.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The purpose of this funding is provide services to youth ages 18-26 who have aged out of foster care. In Erie County on average approximately 45 youth age out of foster care each year. New York State allows youth to remain in foster care until the age of 21 however, following a foster care youth's 18th birthday their stay in foster care is voluntary. For these youth, between 18-19 years old is the largest number of youths exiting foster care with the vast majority exiting to their own responsibility. Research shows that foster care youth are at higher risk for an array of risk factors that include but are not limited to; homelessness, high school and secondary /vocational drop out, pregnancy at a young age, criminal justice system involvement, mental health disorders, substance use disorders, and a variety of health and socioeconomic disparities. These risk factors are amplified when youth are discharged without permanency resources or permanent connections within the community to assist them in their transition to adulthood.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

These important services could not be continued.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Contracts with Gateway Longview and the Community Action Organization of Western New York (CAO) will be established.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Re: Authorization to establish contracts with Gateway Longview and the Community Action Organization of Western New York CAO

WHEREAS, in Erie County on average 45 youth age out of foster care each year; and

WHEREAS, the largest number of youth exiting foster care are between the ages of 18-19; and

WHEREAS, these youth are at higher risk for an array of risk factors that include but are not limited to; homelessness, high school and secondary/vocational drop out, pregnancy at a young age, criminal justice system involvement, mental health disorders, and a variety of health and socioeconomic disparities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) #2024-046VF from qualified vendors interested in providing supports to youth that have aged out of foster care; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services assembled a Proposal Selection Committee, which has conducted a review and selection process for the proposals that have been received: and

WHEREAS, considering the scope of specified services, and the results from the tallied matrices, it was decided to contract with Gateway Longview and the Community Action Organization of Western New York (CAO) to provide services to youth who have aged out of foster care.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or the Deputy County Executive to establish contracts with Gateway Longview in the amount of \$250,000 and Community Action Organization of Western New York in the amount of \$150,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that sufficient funding exists within the Department of Social Services 2025 Operating Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 120) Account 516020 – Professional Services, Contracts & Fees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is 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.



Department of Social Services

Recommendation for RFP 2024-046VF: Foster Care Alumni Services


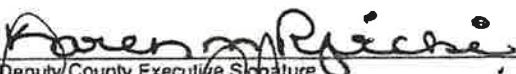
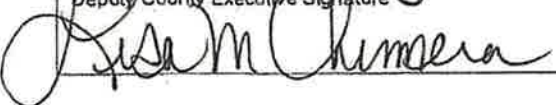
Date: April 11, 2025

The review panel has completed its task of evaluating the proposals for the above-named RFP. The proposals were graded individually by each panel member as well as by Administration as to compliance with the RFP requirements and fiscal compliance/soundness.

Agency	TOTAL SCORE	RANKING by Score	Requested Amount	Recommended Award	RANKING by Vote
GATEWAY LONGVIEW	84.33	1	\$ 400,000.00	\$250,000.00	1
COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION OF WNY	78.00	2	\$ 400,000.00	\$150,000.00	2
ACCESSIBLE ACADEMICS USA, INC.	71.00	3	\$ 83,548.68	0	3
BUFFALO URBAN LEAGUE, INC.	60.00	4	\$ 400,000.00	0	4

It is recommended that Foster Care Alumni Services be funded as outlined above for Erie County in 2025-2026. Supporting documentation is included in this packet.

The Department of Social Services has complied with all applicable provisions of Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code.

1 st Deputy Commissioner Signature 	Printed Name Catie Gavin	Date 4/14/25
Commissioner Signature 	Printed Name Karen Rybicki	Date 4/15/25
Deputy County Executive Signature 	Printed Name Lisa Chimera	Date 4/15/25

Once reviewed and approved, please return to Carrie Godfrey, Assistant Social Services Program Director at Carrie.Godfrey@erie.gov or Rath 867 for processing. Thank you.