



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 16, 2025

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

**RE: Acceptance of COSSUP Grant**

Dear Honorable Members:

The Erie County Department of Health's (ECDOH) Office of Harm Reduction is seeking authorization to accept an award from the U.S. Department of Justice for \$1,600,000 for the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSUP) to work with University at Buffalo's Primary Care Research Institute (PCRI) to assist 450 at risk individuals and their families navigate the justice system and increase their connection to treatment and recovery support services.

Due to the recent freeze on Federal funds, the passage of this resolution does not guarantee its execution. I have directed the Office of Budget and Management to closely monitor and place holds on certain Federal contracts so that no significant cost is accrued by Erie County while the freeze by the Trump administration is resolved.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Gale Burstein at the Department of Health. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Poloncarz".

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 COSSUP Grant  
**Date:** May 16, 2025

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### **SUMMARY**

The Erie County Department of Health's (ECDOH) Office of Harm Reduction was awarded \$1,600,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice after jointly applying with UB's Primary Care Research Institute (PCRI) to reduce the impact of illicit opioids, stimulants, and other substances on individuals and communities by decreasing overdose deaths and mitigating the effects on crime victims in Erie County, with special emphasis on areas that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and negatively affected by continued poverty and inequality, through comprehensive and collaborative initiatives.

This project aims to help 450 at risk individuals and consist of embedding social workers, peers, and/or persons with lived experience at all intercepts of the Sequential Intercept Model to assist persons with justice involvement, help their families navigate the justice system, and increase their connection to treatment and recovery support services. This includes law enforcement, pretrial and probation agencies, prosecutor-led programs, legal defense agencies, child welfare agencies, courts, and jails to support community reentry

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Neutral. This grant is 100% Federally funded.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

This program is another opportunity to assist those most at risk, and their families, to address substance use disorders and other needs during the ongoing opioid crisis.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Erie County will be missing an opportunity to work with UB's PCRI to assist 450 at risk individuals and their families during the ongoing opioid crisis.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

ECDOH will work with Budget and Management and County Attorney's Office to effectuate this resolution.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Re: Acceptance of COSSUP Grant

WHEREAS, Erie County continues its response to the opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, Erie County's Office of Harm Reduction, with UB's PCRI, was awarded \$1,600,000; and

WHEREAS, these funds will help 450 at risk individuals and their families navigate the justice system, and increase their connection to treatment and recovery support services; and

WHEREAS, the program will include law enforcement, pretrial and probation agencies, prosecutor-led programs, legal defense agencies, child welfare agencies, courts, and jails to support community reentry to assist these individuals; and

WHEREAS, the funds will be used for marketing and targeted outreach approach with extensive data collection with goals of improving food systems, support future initiatives, and assist the expansion of food markets into underserved areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive to accept \$1,600,0000 from U.S. Department of Justice for the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSUP) to be made available as a multi-year grant to the Department of Health (Fund 281, Funds Center 1271215) as follows:

Department of Health  
Comprehensive Opioid Stimulant, Substance Use Site Based Program  
127COSSUP2427  
10/1/2024-9/30/2027

**REVENUES**

414000 Federal Aid  
TOTAL

**CHANGE**

\$1,600,000  
\$1,600,000

**APPROPRIATIONS**

516020 Professional Services, Contracts & Fees  
TOTAL

**CHANGE**

\$1,600,000  
\$1,600,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into contract with University at Buffalo's Primary Care Research Institute (PCRI), waiving the procedures in Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the Division of Budget and Management to adjust grant appropriations and revenues including those required to comply with the grantor funding changes provided there are no changes to authorized personnel levels or county share amounts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to amend contracts as necessary to implement any no-cost extension that may be permitted by the grantor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the Division of Budget and Management to implement any technical adjustments necessary to effectuate this resolution; and be it further

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