



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 16, 2025

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

Re: Authorization to accept Federal Aid for Child Poverty Reduction and establish a Contract with Community Action Organization of WNY

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services has been awarded \$12,250,000 in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to fund the Child Poverty Reduction Initiative (CPRI) to support child poverty reduction over the next three years in the City of Buffalo. This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to amend the 2025 Adopted Budget and establish a contract with the Community Action Organization of WNY.

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 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 accept Federal Aid for Child Poverty Reduction and establish a contract with Community Action Organization of WNY
Date: May 16, 2025

SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to amend the 2025 Adopted Budget and establish a contract with the Community Action Organization of WNY to provide services to support child poverty reduction over the next three years in the City of Buffalo. This resolution requests the creation of jobs that will enable collaboration between the Department of Social Services and the Community Action Organization of WNY.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Two new positions are being created to allow for collaboration with the Community Action Organization of WNY. These positions will allow the Employment Assessment Division of the Department of Social Services to aid the Community Action Organization of WNY in providing these needed services. These positions will be created effective June 28, 2025

6/28/25 Start PP15 (50%)

Dept	Cost Center	Title	Status	Unit	JG	Step	Annualized Salary	Pro-Rated Salary	#	
Social Services	1206030	Workforce Development Specialist	FT	CSEA	10	5	\$75,226	\$37,613	2	\$75,226
									Totals	Salaries \$ 75,226 Fringe 37,613 Total \$112,840

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Social Services has been awarded \$12,250,000 in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to fund the Child Poverty Reduction Initiative (CPRI) to support child poverty reduction over the next three years in the City of Buffalo.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The SFY 2025-25 New York State Budget includes federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding to help families residing in the City of Buffalo move out of poverty and improve the well-being of families and children. The Erie County Child Poverty Reduction Action Plan supports upward mobility for families experiencing poverty and which helps families obtain and maintain financial stability; and other factors that may impact a family, parent, or child's ability to stay above the poverty level. The goal of the incentive-based program is to improve employment outcomes for families and children and reduce the child

poverty rate. Program aspects include life coaches, career coaches, financial literacy services, linkage to supports and resources, and authorization of incentivized direct cash assistance.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

These important services could not be provided.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Social Services will work with the Division of Budget and Management to amend the existing 2025 Adopted Budget amounts and establish a contract with the Community Action Organization of WNY to provide services to support child poverty reduction over the next three years in the City of Buffalo.

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

Re: Authorization to accept Federal Aid for Child Poverty Reduction and establish a Contract with Community Action Organization of WNY

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services was awarded \$12,250,000 in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding to support child poverty reduction; and

WHEREAS, the funds awarded are to provide locally driven anti-poverty initiatives aimed at assisting children and families while reducing what are some of the highest child poverty rates nationwide; and

WHEREAS, a Request for Proposal (RFP) #2025-005VF was issued seeking proposals from qualified agencies interested in collaborating with Erie County Department of Social Services with the capacity and experience in providing workforce development services; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County 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 the unanimous recommendations of the Committee members to award the contract to the Community Action Organization of WNY in an amount not to exceed \$11,750,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to accept \$12,250,000 in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding to support child poverty reduction and amend the Department of Social Services 2025 Operating Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 120) be amended as follows:

Department of Social Services
Fund 110, Funds Center 1206030

REVENUES

414000 Federal Aid
TOTAL

CHANGE

\$12,250,000
\$12,250,000

APPROPRIATIONS

500000 Full Time - Salaries
502000 Fringe Benefits
504992 Salary Reserve
516345 Child Poverty Reduction Initiative
TOTAL

CHANGE

\$ 75,226
37,613
387,160
\$11,750,000
\$12,250,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to create two (2) new full-time Workforce Development Specialist positions, Job Group 10, CSEA within the Department of Social Services' 2025 Operating Budget (B100# 14991) as part of the Child Poverty Reduction Initiative, effective June 28, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive or the Deputy County Executive to enter into contract with the Community Action Organization of WNY in an amount not to exceed \$11,750,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the Director of Budget and Management to make any additional budget adjustments which may be required in order to match expenses with federal funding allocation adjustments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the Division 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, Department of Social Services, and Division of Budget and Management.



Department of Social Services

Recommendation for RFP 2025-005VF: Child Poverty Reduction Initiative

Date: 5/7/25

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
COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION OF WESTERN NEW YORK	80.33	1	\$ 11,900,000.00/18 months	Up to \$11,750,000.00*	1
KAREN SOCIETY OF BUFFALO	69.67	2	\$133,765.00/year	\$0	2
FAMILY PROMISE OF WESTERN NEW YORK	65.67	3	\$ 166,667.00/year	\$0	3
BUFFALO ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER, INC	60.00	4	\$150,000.00	\$0	4
WORLD OF GIRLS & BOYS LEADERSHIP INC.	17.33	5	\$250,440.00	\$0	5

* CAO will subcontract with Karen Society of Buffalo and Family Promise of Western New York to serve specialized populations.

It is recommended that Child Poverty Reduction Initiative Services be funded as outlined above for Erie County in 2025. 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.

Program Director Signature <i>Sandra Neubert</i>	Printed Name Sandra Neubert	Date 5/7/25
Commissioner Signature <i>Karen Rybicki</i>	Printed Name Karen Rybicki	Date 5/7/2025
Deputy County Executive Signature <i>Lisa Chimera</i>	Printed Name Lisa Chimera	Date 5/9/25