



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 16, 2025

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

Re: Acceptance of State Aid for Statewide Investment in More Swimming (SWIMS)

Dear Honorable Members:

Erie County has been awarded \$124,800 in 100% State funds as reimbursable grants to municipalities through counties. The New York Statewide Investment in More Swimming (SWIMS) Lifeguard Grant Program is intended to address a critical shortage of staff lifeguards available at public locations, including pools and beaches in New York State. This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to enter into agreements with local municipalities to help them defray the costs of hiring and training lifeguards.

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 Poloncarz".

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 the Statewide Investment in More Swimming (SWIMS) program
Date: May 16, 2025

SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to amend the 2025 Adopted Budget and enter into agreements with municipalities located in Erie County to help defray the costs associated with hiring and training lifeguards.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This resolution authorizes the acceptance of \$124,800 of State funds through the New York State Department of State and to enter into agreements with municipalities located in Erie County to help defray the costs associated with hiring and training lifeguards.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The New York State Department of State's Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) will make approximately \$5 million available through counties and certain large cities to incentivize lifeguard recruitment and retention. The NY SWIMS Lifeguard Grant Program is intended to address a critical shortage of staff lifeguards (including lifeguards contracted through third parties, or contracted lifeguards), available at public locations, including pools and beaches in New York State municipalities.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

These important services could not be offered.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The 2025 adopted budget will be amended and agreements will be executed with municipalities located in Erie County.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Re: Acceptance of State Aid for Statewide Investment in More Swimming (SWIMS)

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of State has made available reimbursable grants to municipalities through counties; and

WHEREAS, the NYS SWIMS Lifeguard Grant Program is intended to address a critical shortage of staff lifeguards available at public locations, including pools and beaches in New York State; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services will solicit applications from municipalities located in Erie County for funding up to \$400 per training and certification of lifeguards; and

WHEREAS, grant awards will be issued in a fair and equitable manner based on the number of applications that are received; 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 \$124,800 in State Aid to provide reimbursable grants to municipalities located in Erie County and amend the Department of Social Service's 2025 Operating Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 120) as follows:

Department of Social Services
Fund 110, Funds Center 120

<u>REVENUES</u>		<u>CHANGE</u>
409000	State Aid Revenue	<u>\$124,800</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$124,800</u>

<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>		<u>CHANGE</u>
516020	Professional Services, Contracts & Fees	<u>\$124,800</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$124,800</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or the Deputy County Executive to enter into agreements with municipalities located in Erie County that have public locations requiring lifeguards, including pools and beaches; 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.