



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 2, 2025

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Authorization to Contract with Erie 1 BOCES**

Dear Honorable Members:

The Erie County Department of Mental Health is seeking authorization to enter into contract with Erie 1 BOCES to provide funding for the Supporting Mental Health by Advocating for Resources Together (SMART) Collaborative to host workshops, raise awareness of resources, and support partners in activities around youth mental health.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, please contact Commissioner of Mental Health, Sarah Bonk. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/jah/ds  
Enclosure

cc: Sarah Bonk, Commissioner of Mental Health

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Mental Health  
**Re:** Authorization to Contract with Erie 1 BOCES  
**Date:** July 2, 2025

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### **SUMMARY**

The Erie County Department of Mental Health (ECDMH) is seeking authorization to contract with Erie 1 BOCES for \$30,000 to support the activities, outreach, and engagement of the Supporting Mental Health by Advocating for Resources Together (SMART) Collaborative. SMART has hundreds of participants from various county departments, P-12 educators, community agencies, school administration and many more stakeholders.

Mental Health has identified funds to be used to hold workshops for SMART partners, education on resources for P-12 educators, and support for activities around youth mental health.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The funding for this one-time request in the amount of \$30,000 is derived entirely from deferred federal revenue allocated to ECDMH for the provision of Behavioral Health Services. No County tax dollars are necessary.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Since its inception, Erie County has been an active member of the SMART Collaborative. Representatives from several county departments regularly participate in meetings with P-12 educators, community agencies, and other stakeholders to collaborate on available Mental Health and Social Emotional Learning tools within our community. The goal of SMART is to provide opportunities for school districts and service providers in Erie County to network, share resources, and discuss how to meet the needs of the whole child through integrated student and family supports. These funds will support its mission by hosting workshops and activities around youth mental health.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Erie County, the lead agency of SMART, would be unable to provide the resources to Erie 1 BOCES to help the SMART Collaborative with resources for its mission.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

ECDMH will work with the County Attorney's Office on executing the new contract.

**RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

Re: Authorization to Contract with Erie 1 BOCES

WHEREAS, nearly eighty percent (80%) of chronic mental health conditions emerge in childhood. While mental health concerns are frequently seen in public schools, the pandemic's combination of isolation plus other mental health issues has exacerbated the need for added supports; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Erie County led the formation of the Supporting Mental Health by Advocating for Resources Together (SMART) Collaborative to address mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, SMART has grown to five hundred (500) partners that includes school administrators, educators, community agencies, and many more stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, Erie 1 BOCES will be the organizing agency to host workshops, fund activities and outreach, and share resources with partners to address the mental health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health has an allocation of Federal funding in the amount of \$30,000 to help support SMART's mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the recognition of \$30,000 in deferred federal aid revenues to be budgeted within the Department of Mental Health's Division of Program Administration's (Fund 110, Funds Center 1241020) 2025 Operating Budget as follows:

Department of Mental Health Fund 110, Funds Center 1241020	
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
411000 MH Fed Medi Sal Sh	<u>\$30,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$30,000</u>
 <b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>	 <b>CHANGE</b>
516010 Cont Pymts NonProfit Purch Svcs	<u>\$30,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$30,000</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into contract with Erie 1 BOCES for an amount not to

exceed \$30,000 to provide organizing services for the Supporting Mental Health by Advocating for Resources Together (SMART) Collaborative; and be it further

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