



2025 SEP 5 12:42

COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 5, 2025

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

Re: Acceptance of State Aid for Youth Employment Programs (YEP)

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services has been awarded \$5,219,832 in 100% State funds to administer a Youth Employment Program (YEP) to support a reduction in gun involved violence as part of the New York State Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative. This proposed resolution authorizes the Department to amend the 2025 Adopted Budget and to enter into contract with Career Connection Network as the lead agency for this program funding.

We would also like to request that the Erie County Legislature waive Erie County Administrative Code Section 26.08 to enter into the contract with Career Connection Network as they successfully worked with the Department of Social Services during the pilot program with a short turn around.

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 black ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mmk
Enclosure

cc: Commissioner of Social Services Karen Rybicki

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Social Services
Re: Acceptance of State Aid for Youth Employment Program (YEP)
Date: September 5, 2025

SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to amend the 2025 Adopted Budget and enter into contract with Career Connection Network as the lead agency for the Youth Employment Program (YEP).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This resolution authorizes the acceptance of \$5,219,832 of State funds and to enter into a contract with Career Connection Network in the amount of \$5,109,832 for the provision of services for the Youth Employment Program (YEP).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The YEP is an important platform which is intended to help reduce community gun violence and youth criminal justice involvement by providing year-round employment opportunities. Research shows vulnerable at-risk and unemployed youth can face struggles later in life including poverty, dependence on public assistance programs and criminal justice involvement. In addition, youth exposed to trauma and violence may suffer long term harmful effects including barriers to successful employment and financial prospects later in life. These funds will support the establishment of a program which includes employment, education and/or career exploration opportunities for TANF-eligible youth from low-income households. This funding is further intended to support employment programs for youth at risk of gun violence as part of a statewide gun violence reduction intervention model. The goal of the Department of Social Services is to provide services to 350-400 youth on a rolling enrollment basis from September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$16.50.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

These important services could not be provided.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The 2025 adopted budget will be amended and a contract established with Career Connection Network as the lead agency for the Youth Employment Program.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Re: Acceptance of State Aid for Youth Employment Program (YEP)

WHEREAS, the Youth Employment Program (YEP) is an important platform intended to help reduce community gun violence and youth criminal justice involvement by providing year-round employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, these funds will support the establishment of a program which includes employment, education and/or career exploration opportunities for TANF-eligible youth from low-income households; and

WHEREAS, Career Connection Network has the expertise to be the lead agency for this program by preparing payroll checks, tax reporting, and providing educational trainings with support from the Employment Division of the Department of Social Services; and

WHEREAS, Career Connection Network successfully partnered with the Department of Social Services for the pilot portion of this program and due to the short turnaround of time to implement the current funding we would like to request that the Erie County Legislature waive Erie County Administrative Code Section 26.08 to enter into the contract with Career Connection Network; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the Department of Social Services to accept \$5,219,832 in State Aid and amend the 2025 General Fund Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 120) as follows:

Department of Social Services
Fund 110, Funds Center 120

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
409000	State Aid Revenue	<u>\$5,219,832</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$5,219,832</u>

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
516461	Youth Employment Program	<u>\$5,109,832</u>
502000	Fringe Benefits	<u>\$ 110,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$5,219,832</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into contract with Career Connection Network in the amount of

\$5,109,832 for the provision of services for the Youth Employment Programs (YEP), waiving the procedures in Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to 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 shall be forwarded to the Erie County Executive's Office, Comptroller's Office, Department of Social Services, and Division of Budget and Management.