



# COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

21 SEP 2025 5:23:12:45

September 5, 2025

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

**Re: Acceptance of State Aid for Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Funds  
for Recruitment Activities**

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services has been awarded \$25,000 in 100% State funds to aid foster/adoptive parent and legal guardianship recruitment activities to increase permanency outcomes. This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to amend the 2025 Adopted Budget and to contract with Family Help Center 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 contract with Family Help Center as there is a short turn around time to use these funds.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, please contact Commissioner Karen Rybicki at the Department of Social Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Poloncarz" clearly visible.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/mmk  
Enclosure

cc: Karen Rybicki, Commissioner of Social Services

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Erie County Department of Social Services  
**Re:** Acceptance of State Aid for Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Funds for Recruitment Activities  
**Date:** September 5, 2025

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### **SUMMARY**

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to accept 100% State funding in the amount of \$25,000 to foster/adoptive parent and legal guardianship recruitment activities to increase permanency outcomes.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

This resolution authorizes the acceptance of \$25,000 of State funds and to enter into a contract with Family Help Center in the amount of \$25,000 for the provision of facilitating recruitment activities for foster/adoptive parent and legal guardianship.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Payments Program (AIPP) was established by the Administration for Children and Families in 1997 as part of the Adoption and Safe Families Act. The objective of the AIPP is to provide incentives to states and eligible tribes to annually increase the number of children in foster care who find permanent homes through adoption or legal guardianship. In 2014, the program was reauthorized and revised to allow incentives to be paid to jurisdictions for improved performance in both adoptions and legal guardianship of children in foster care. The program was reauthorized in 2021 as part of the Family First Prevention Services Act, signed into law in February 2018. The program recognizes states and tribes for improving their performance in finding permanent homes for children in foster care and is reauthorized annually. The AIPP is a critical investment to help Local Social Services Districts recruit and strengthen kinship foster and adoptive families and promote adoptive placements, thereby increasing the number of children and youth moving from foster care into permanent placements.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

These important services could not be provided.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The 2025 Proposed Budget will be amended and a contract will be established with Family Help Center as the lead agency for the provision of facilitating recruitment activities for foster/adoptive parent and legal guardianship.

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

**RE:** Acceptance of State Aid for Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Funds for Recruitment Activities

WHEREAS The New York State Office of Children and Families (OCFS) appropriated \$1,475,000 from the Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Payments Program (AIPP) for foster/adoptive parent legal guardianship recruitment activities to increase permanency outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Social Services has been awarded funding in the amount of \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, Family Help Center has the expertise to be the lead agency for this program by facilitating programs to increase recruitment of foster/adoptive parent legal guardianship; and

WHEREAS there is no additional local share necessary for these awards, and there is no fiscal impact based on this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the Department of Social Services to accept \$25,000 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>
407650	State Aid – Foster Care/Adopt	<u>\$25,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$25,000</u>

  

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
516010	Contract Payments Nonprofit	<u>\$25,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$25,000</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into contract with Family Help Center in the amount of \$25,000 for the provision of facilitating programs to increase recruitment of foster/adoptive parent legal guardianship, 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 Director of Budget and Management to make any additional budget adjustment which may be required in order to match expenses with State funding allocation adjustments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to 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, Comptroller's Office, Department of Social Services, and Division of Budget and Management.