



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 5, 2025

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

Re: Live Well Erie Initiatives 2025

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services is seeking approval to release funding and execute contracts with Live Well Erie partner organizations in the amount of \$391,415. These funds will be used to promote healthy outcomes for children, working families, and older adults living in Erie County.

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 dark ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/tcc
Enclosure

cc: Karen Rybicki, Commissioner, Department of Social Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Member of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Social Services
Re: Live Well Erie Initiatives 2025
Date: September 5, 2025

SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the County Executive to enter into the following contracts relating to the Live Well Erie Initiatives Allocation:

• Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc.	\$40,000
• Learning Disabilities Association of WNY Inc.	\$40,000
• Center for Elder Law and Justice	\$40,000
• Metro Community Development Association	\$40,000
• Family Help Center	\$40,000
• Green Options Buffalo	\$34,960
• Say Yes Buffalo Scholarship, Inc.	\$36,455
• Stitch Buffalo Inc.	\$40,000
• The Rural Outreach Center	\$40,000
• Westside Community Services	<u>\$40,000</u>
	\$391,415

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Budgetary appropriations of \$391,415 are available in Fund 110, Cost Center 120, GL Account 516330 – Live Well Erie.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

By supporting these organizations, we can help address the social determinants of health that often disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. By providing funding for programs that focus on access to healthcare, healthy food options, and preventative care, we can help reduce health disparities and improve overall well-being in the community.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Live Well Erie is a broad-based, data-driven initiative involving numerous partners in the public, private, and non-profit sectors collaborating to achieve greater health outcomes and improving the overall quality of life for its residents. The Live Well Erie RFP (2025-013VF) was posted on May 12, 2025, and reviewed by a panel of seven representatives from diverse Erie County departments, including Social Services, Public Advocacy, the Office for People with Disabilities, Health Equity, the Office for the Aging, Youth Services, and Environmental Planning.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Live Well Erie initiatives will not be supported and therefore cannot improve healthy outcomes for County residents.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The 2025 Adopted Budget will be amended and contracts with community partners will be executed, and Live Well Erie will begin to improve the social determinants of health within vulnerable communities.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

RE: Live Well Erie Initiatives 2025

WHEREAS, Live Well Erie is a health and human services initiative created by the County Executive in September of 2019; and

WHEREAS, The Live Well Erie Vision is organized around the singular idea that in the new Erie County we will leave no one behind and that all residents will have the chance to realize their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Live Well Erie was designed to uplift three crucial pillars of our community: children, working families, and older adults; and

WHEREAS, by extending support to these vulnerable populations, it aims to foster a thriving environment where every individual, regardless of age or circumstance, can access the resources they need to lead fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, Live Well Erie is supporting children by providing resources and programs to ensure children have access to quality education, healthcare, and opportunities for healthy development; and

WHEREAS, assisting Working Families by implementing initiatives to support working families, such as affordable housing options, childcare assistance, and job training programs to promote financial stability and upward mobility; and

WHEREAS, empowering older adults by offering services and support tailored to the needs of older adults, including healthcare resources, social engagement opportunities, and assistance with navigating aging-related challenges, to promote healthy and active aging within the community; and

WHEREAS, Live Well Erie Initiatives issued an RFP (2025-013VF) to qualified not-for-profit agencies to propose transformational projects that empower those living in or at risk of falling into poverty. Sixty-nine responses were received, and the scoring committee has recommended ten projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or the Deputy County Executive to enter into contracts in the amount of \$391,415 with awarded local agencies to provide services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that sufficient funding is available for these contracts within the Department of Social Services' 2025 Operating Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 120) Account 516330 – Live Well Erie; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the Director of Budget and Management to make any additional budget adjustment which may be required in order to effectuate this resolution; and be it further

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



Department of Social Services

Recommendation for RFP#: 2025-013VF

Date: 8/14/25

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.

Round 1

Organization Name	Final Score	Requested Amount	Recommended Award
Stitch Buffalo Inc.	11.66667	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
Center for Elder Law Justice	11.33333-	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County	11	\$39,515.00	0
Belmont Housing	11	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
Family Help Center	11	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
Rural Transit Service	10.83333	\$40,000.00	0
Leaming Disabilities Association of WNY Inc.	10.66667	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
Research Foundation	10.66667	\$40,000.00	0
Say Yes Buffalo Scholarship Inc. - Boys and Men of Color Initiative	10.66667	\$36,455.00	\$36,455
Westside Community Services	10.33333	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
The Rural Outreach Center	10.33333	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
EPIC	10.16667	\$40,000.00	0
Say Yes Buffalo Scholarship Inc. - Healthy Homes Initiative	10	\$40,000.00	0

Buffalo Toronto Public Media	10	\$40,000.00	0
Buffalo Urban League	10	\$40,000.00	0
Metro Community Development Association	10	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
Green Options Buffalo	10	\$34,959.87	\$34,960
Horizon Health	10	\$40,000.00	0
Journeys End	10	\$39,774.00	0
Parachute Credit Counseling	10	\$24,093.00	0
Prevention Council	10	\$35,000.00	0
Salvation Army	10	\$40,000.00	0
YMCA Buffalo Niagara	10	\$40,000.00	0
Homespace	10	\$40,000.00	0
Grassroots Gardens	9.833333	\$40,000.00	0
Harvest House	9.833333	\$40,000.00	0
Family Promise of WNY	9.833333	\$36,000.00	0
VIA - (Visually Impaired Advancement)	9.666667	\$39,899.00	0
Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network	9.666667	\$40,000.00	0
Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition	9.666667	\$39,886.00	0
FeedMore	9.666667	\$40,000.00	0
Partnership for the Public Good	9.666667	\$35,000.00	0
Literacy Buffalo Niagara	9.5	\$30,000.00	0
Buffalo Strings Works	9.333333	\$39,420.00	0
South Buffalo Community Association	9.333333	\$40,000.00	0
African American Cultural Center	9	\$40,000.00	0
Big Brother Big Sister	9	\$40,000.00	0
Childcare Resource Network	9	\$40,000.00	0
Compeer Buffalo International	9	\$35,000.00	0
Just for Kids (Childcare Network of the Niagara Frontier)	9	\$35,000.00	0
Most Valuable Parent (MVP)	9	\$40,000.00	0
Peaceprints of WNY	9	\$40,000.00	0
Pride Center	9	\$40,000.00	0

YWCAWNY	9	\$40,000.00	0
Karen Society of Buffalo	8.666667	\$38,394.00	0
Peace of the City	8.666667	\$40,000.00	0
Project Mona's House	8.666667	\$40,000.00	0
Read to Succeed	8.666667	\$40,000.00	0
WHJESP	8.666667	\$40,000.00	0
Save Our Youth	8.5	\$40,000.00	0
Feed 716	8.333333	\$25,000.00	0
Girls Scouts ofWNY	8.333333	\$19,036.00	0
Mother Earth Literacies	8.333333	\$40,000.00	0
No Wound Untreated Inc.	8.333333	\$40,000.00	0
Refugee and Immigrant Self-Empowerment (RISE)	8.166667	\$40,000.00	0
Olive Tree	8	\$40,000.00	0
Bits and Bytes STEM	8	\$40,000.00	0
Love Alive Fellowship	8	\$40,000.00	0
The Trading Post	7.833333	\$13,560.00	0
Seneca Street CDC	7.666667	\$40,000.00	0
Empowerment Temple	7.333333	\$40,000.00	0
Lackawanna Housing Development Corporation	7.333333	\$40,000.00	0
Accessible Academics Inc.	7	\$40,000.00	0
The Research Foundation for the State University of New York	7	\$40,000.00	0
Azeem Foundation 2 - Capacity Building	6.666667	\$40,000.00	0
Every Bottom Covered	6.666667	\$40,000.00	0
Lackawanna Library (Lackawanna CDC)	5.666667	\$40,000.00	0
Miss Alternative Buffalo	5.5	\$40,000.00	0
Azeem Foundation	4.333333	\$40,000.00	0

Round 2

Organization Name	Final Score	Requested Amount	Recommended Award
Stitch Buffalo Inc.	11.67	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
Center for Elder Law Justice	11.33	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
Belmont Housing Resources for WNY Inc.	11.33	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
Family Help Center	11.33	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
Leaming Disabilities Association of WNY Inc.	11	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
Say Yes Buffalo Scholarship, Inc. Boys and Men of Color Initiative	11	\$36,455.00	\$36,455
Westside Community Services	11	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
The Rural Outreach Center	11	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
Metro Community Development Association	10.67	\$40,000.00	\$40,000
Green Options Buffalo	10.67	\$34,959.87	\$34,960
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County	10.33	\$39,515.00	0
Rural Transit Service	10.33	\$40,000.00	0
Research Foundation	10.33	\$40,000.00	0
EPIC	10.167	\$40,000.00	0
Say Yes - Healthy Homes Initiative	10	\$40,000.00	0
Buffalo Toronto Public Media	10	\$40,000.00	0
Buffalo Urban League	10	\$40,000.00	0
Horizon Health	10	\$40,000.00	0
Journeys End	10	\$39,774.00	0
Parachute Credit Counseling	10	\$24,093.00	0

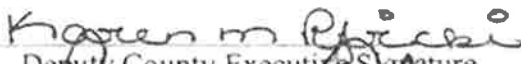
It is recommended that Belmont Housing Resources For WNY, Inc., Beyond Support of WNY, Center for Elder Law and Justice, Family Help Center, Go Bike, Metro Community Development Corp. d/b/a Delevan Grider Community Center, Say Yes- Boys and Men of Color Initiative, and Rural Outreach Affordable Housing Corporation, Stitch Buffalo, Westside Community Services provide services in 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.

Commissioner Signature

Printed Name

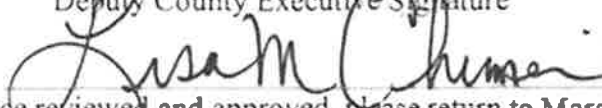
Date


Deputy County Executive Signature

Karen M Rybicki
Printed Name

8/20/25

Date



Lisa Chimera

8/22/25

Once reviewed and approved, please return to Margaret Krathaus at Margaret.Krathuas@erie.gov for processing, Thank you.