



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 31, 2025

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

Re: Acceptance of State Aid for Code Blue Services

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services has been awarded \$645,000 in 100% State funding to provide Code Blue services when temperatures are expected to fall below 32° F with wind chill for at least two consecutive hours, based on the local forecast issued by the National Weather Service for the city, town or village within the district that is known to have the largest population of unsheltered homeless persons. This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to amend the 2025 Adopted Budget.

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 blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

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 Code Blue Services
Date: October 31, 2025

SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to accept 100% State funding in the amount of \$645,000 to provide Code Blue Services when temperatures are expected to fall below 32° F with wind chill for at least two consecutive hours, based on the local forecast issued by the National Weather Service for the city, town or village within the district that is known to have the largest population of unsheltered homeless persons.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact to the 2025 Adopted Budget based on this resolution.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance has awarded Erie County \$645,000 to provide Code Blue Services when temperatures are expected to fall below 32° F.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has appropriated \$20 million for district costs related to implementing emergency measures for the homeless during inclement winter weather (Code Blue). A Code Blue alert must be called when temperatures are expected to fall below 32° F with wind chill for at least two consecutive hours, based on the local forecast issued by the National Weather Service for the city, town or village within the district that is known to have the largest population of unsheltered homeless persons. When possible, the decision to declare a Code Blue alert should be made by 5:00 p.m. each day. The Code Blue should remain in effect until the temperature rises above 32° F with wind chill, but at least until 7:00 a.m. the next morning.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

These important services could not be provided.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Social Services will work with the Division of Budget and Management to amend the existing 2025 Adopted Budget amounts.

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

RE: Acceptance of State Aid for Code Blue Services

WHEREAS, The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) appropriated \$20 million for district costs related to implementing emergency measures for the homeless during inclement winter weather (Code Blue); and

WHEREAS, the funds awarded are to provide Code Blue Services when temperatures are expected to fall below 32° F; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Social Services has been awarded funding in the amount of \$645,000; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services distributed a Request for Proposal (RFP #2025-039VF) to interested parties, and the panel recommendations were utilized to determine contract award amount; and

WHEREAS, based on the results of the RFP, the Erie County Department of Social Services has identified The City Mission, Inc. as the recipient of this funding to provide Code Blue Services in the amount of \$645,000; 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 \$645,000 in State Aid into the Department of Social Services' 2025 Adopted Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 1201010) for Code Blue Services as follows:

Department of Social Services
Fund 110, Funds Center 1201010

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
407795	State Aid – Code Blue	<u>\$645,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$645,000</u>
<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
516465	Code Blue Winter Shelter	<u>\$645,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$645,000</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into contract with The City Mission, Inc. (RFP #2025-039VF) in the amount of \$645,000 for the provision of Code Blue Services; 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.



Department of Social Services

**Recommendation for RFP 2025-039VF: Emergency Shelter And Supportive Services
For The Homeless During Code Blue Activation**

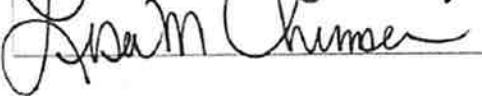
Date: September 29, 2025

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.

Agency	Total Score	Ranking by Score	Requested Amount	Recommended Award	Ranking by Vote
THE CITY MISSION INC	82	1	\$668,932	\$645,000	1
COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION OF WESTERN NEW YORK	75.67	2	\$745,000	0	2

It is recommended that Emergency Shelter And Supportive Services For The Homeless During Code Blue Activation be funded as outlined above for 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.

First Deputy Commissioner - Family Independence Signature	Printed Name	Date
	Dan Szwec	10/2/25
DES Commissioner Signature	Printed Name	Date
	Karen Rybicki	10/2/25
Deputy County Executive Signature	Printed Name	Date
	Lisa Chimera	10/3/25

Once reviewed and approved, please return for processing. Thank you.