



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 31, 2025

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

Re: Donation by Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo to Support Child Poverty Reduction

Dear Honorable Members:

The Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo has pledged \$20,000 in support of the Erie County Poverty Reduction Initiative (CPRI) Demonstration Project being run by the Erie County Department of Social Services.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact 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: Social Services
Re: Donation by Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo
Date: September 5, 2025

SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to accept \$20,000 from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo in support of our Child Poverty Reduction Initiative (CPRI) to support child poverty reduction over the next three years in the City of Buffalo.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

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

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo would like to support the Erie County Child Poverty Reduction Initiative (CPRI) Demonstration project with an award of \$20,000. One of the Community Foundation's major priorities is to promote economic mobility through educational achievement, workforce readiness and access to family sustaining jobs for residents living in low-income households. Even when these individuals are working and have regular employment, they are often disincentivized to pursue career advancement because the initial salary increases will not make up for what they will lose in government benefits. They believe that the benefits cliff is a major impediment for these residents' ability to achieve economic mobility, and they are committed to working alongside the Erie County Department of Social Services in finding the solution.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Erie County Department of Social Services has been awarded \$12,250,000 in Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to fund the Child Poverty Reduction Initiative (CPRI) to support child poverty reduction over the next three years in the City of Buffalo. Through this program individuals will receive stipend for completing milestones to aid in the pursuit of a higher paying position. In order to prevent these stipends from being counted in the determination of Temporary Assistance (TA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits the Department of Social Services needed to seek out funding to support the program.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Clients will not participate in this valuable program for fear that they will lose benefits that they need to sustain their families.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Erie County Department of Social Services will accept the \$20,000 award from the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo to support their efforts in the Erie County Child Poverty Reduction Initiative (CPRI) Demonstration project.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

RE: Donation by Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Social Services has been awarded \$12,250,000 in Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to fund the Child Poverty Reduction Initiative (CPRI) to support child poverty reduction over the next three years in the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, this program will pay stipends to individuals for completing milestones to aid in the pursuit of a higher paying position; and

WHEREAS, in order to prevent these stipends from being counted as income in the determination of Temporary Assistance (TA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits the Department of Social Services needed to seek out funding to support the program; and

WHEREAS, the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo agreed to support the program with a \$20,000 award which fits the vision of the Department of Social Services to create a community where children, adults, and families are healthy and safe and enjoy a quality life; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to County Law, all donations must be approved and accepted by the Erie County Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the Department of Social Services to modify its 2025 Adopted Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 12010) and accept the donation of \$20,000 from the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo to support the Child Poverty Reduction Initiative (CPRI) as follows:

Department of Social Services
Fund 110, Funds Center 12010

REVENUES

418430 Donated Funds
TOTAL

CHANGE

\$20,000
\$20,000

APPROPRIATIONS

530000 Other Expenses
TOTAL

CHANGE

\$20,000
\$20,000

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 funding allocation adjustments; and be it further

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