

Erie County Legislature

HON. TAISHA ST. JEAN TARD
2ND DISTRICT LEGISLATOR



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Gateway Longview
Carolyn DeFranco, Chief Executive Officer

Community Action Organization of WNY
Dr. Marie Cannon, President and Chief Executive Officer

Re: Requesting an Update on Foster Care Alumni

Carolyn DeFranco and Dr. Marie Cannon:

The 2024 Erie County Budget included a \$400,000 pilot funding line to procure wraparound services for young people transitioning out of foster care. This scope included both a central hub and mentoring support. As we know, once a young person turns 18, they are voluntarily in foster care and often choose to leave the system, frequently finding themselves on their own. These young people need and deserve a soft landing into adulthood.

The vitality of this pilot program is not only valuable for those in foster care but also beneficial to our wider community, helping to ensure that young people can become well-rounded and stable adults. It is also a fiscally responsible investment, as early support for foster care alumni increases their ability to succeed.

In March of 2025, the Erie County Legislature approved COMM. 9E-11, Authorization to Establish Contracts for Foster Care Alumni Support. This action awarded \$250,000 to Gateway Longview and \$150,000 to the Community Action Organization of WNY.

I am requesting that members of both organizations present an update on the progress of the pilot program before the Economic Development Committee, which I chair, on December 11 at 10:00 AM. The meeting will be held in the Erie County Legislature chambers on the 4th floor of Old Erie County Hall, 95 Franklin Street.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Taisha St. Jean Tard".

Legislator Taisha St. Jean Tard
Erie County Legislature, District 2

CC: Karen Rybicki, Commissioner of Erie County Department of Social Services.

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