



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 30, 2026

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Acceptance of State Aid for Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children**

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services has been awarded \$16,949 in 100% State funds as a graduated community in the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children program. This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to amend the 2026 Adopted Budget and to enter into contract with Child and Family Services as the lead agency for this program funding. We are requesting a waiver of the procedures in Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code as Child and Family Services is the vendor of record for providing these necessary services to the Department.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Karen Rybicki at the Department of Social Services. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/mmk

Enclosure

cc: Commissioner of Social Services Karen Rybicki

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Erie County Department of Social Services  
**Re:** Acceptance of State Aid for Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children  
**Date:** January 30, 2026

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### **SUMMARY**

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to amend the 2026 Adopted Budget and enter into contract with Child and Family Services as the lead agency for the Safe Harbor program funding.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

This resolution authorizes the acceptance of \$16,949 of State funds and to enter into a contract with Child and Family Services in the amount of \$16,949 for the provision of services for the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children program.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Regulations and legislation at the Federal and State Level require local districts to respond to and prevent sex trafficking. Child and Family Services is the area agency with expertise in human trafficking and sex trafficking of minors. Since 2024 Child and Family Services has enhanced the Department of Social Services programs through their services.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

These important services could not be continued.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The 2026 adopted budget will be amended and a contract established with Child and Family Services for the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children program.

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

Re: Acceptance of State Aid for Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children

WHEREAS, a key provision of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act is to move sexually exploited youth from the criminal and juvenile justice systems to the family court where children and their families can receive support and services from the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, services are to be provided to victims of sex trafficking and core elements of the service include case management, emergency temporary housing, health care, mental health counseling, language interpretation and translation services, job training and placement and services to assist in establishing permanent residence; and

WHEREAS, Child and Family Services is the lead agency for this program and is the only local agency with the expertise and existing resources to carry out the program; and

WHEREAS, a gradual decrease in State funding over the past few years has required additional county funding to operate this valuable program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the Department of Social Services to accept \$16,949 in State Aid and amend the 2026 General Fund Budget (Fund110, Funds Center 1209010) as follows:

Department of Social Services  
Fund 110, Funds Center 1209010

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
409000	State Aid Revenue	<u>\$16,949</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$16,949</u>
<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
516400	Title XX - Prev & Protective Svcs	<u>\$16,949</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$16,949</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive or the Deputy County Executive to enter into contract with Child and Family Services in the amount of \$16,949 for the provision of services for the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children program, 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 Division 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, Department of Social Services, and Division of Budget and Management.