



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 30, 2026

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

Re: Acceptance of State Aid for New York Shelter Arrears Eviction Forestallment (SAEF) Program

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services has been awarded \$1,571,157 in 100% State funding to provide vital shelter arrears assistance to help eligible households retain permanent housing. This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to amend the 2026 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", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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 New York State Shelter Arrears Eviction
ForeSTALLment (SAEF) Program
Date: January 30, 2026

SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to accept 100% State funding in the amount of \$1,571,157 to provide vital shelter arrears assistance to help eligible households retain permanent housing for certain households that are in receipt of or who would be eligible for ongoing or emergency Public Assistance (PA).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact to the 2026 Adopted Budget based on this resolution.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance has awarded Erie County \$1,571,157 to provide vital shelter arrears assistance to help eligible households retain permanent housing.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has appropriated \$20 million to provide for services and expenses related to the payment of shelter arrears necessary to retain housing for certain households that are in receipt or who would be eligible for ongoing or emergency Public Assistance (PA). To distribute these funds OTDA created the Shelter Arrears Eviction ForeSTALLment (SAEF) program to provide vital shelter arrears assistance to help eligible households retain permanent housing. Assistance provided through the SAEF program must not exceed a total of six months of arrears per household. However, the six months of arrears payments do not have to be consecutive or paid all at once; payments may be issued partially (less than six months of arrears assistance needed) or in full (all six months at once). Prior receipt of shelter arrears payments through the Emergency Assistance to Families (EAF) or Emergency Safety Net Assistance (ESNA) programs does not impact SAEF program eligibility. SAEF program payments are not countable as income or as a resource for PA, Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility of budgeting purposes. Financial eligibility for EAF is determined by the gross income immediately available to the household on the date of application. The household is financially eligible for EAF if the available income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for the household size. Households that qualify for the SAEF program are not subject to a repayment agreement.

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 2026 Adopted Budget amounts.

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

RE: Acceptance of State Aid for New York State Shelter Arrears Eviction Forestallment (SAEF) Program

WHEREAS The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) appropriated \$20 million to provide for services and expenses related to the payment of shelter arrears necessary to retain housing for certain households that are in receipt of or who would be eligible for ongoing or emergency Public Assistance (PA); and

WHEREAS the funds awarded are to provide vital shelter arrears assistance to help eligible households retain permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Social Services has been awarded funding in the amount of \$1,571,157; and

WHEREAS there is no additional local share necessary for these awards, 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 \$1,571,157 in State Aid to provide vital shelter arrears assistance to help eligible households retain permanent housing and the Department of Social Services' 2026 Adopted Budget120 (Fund 110, Funds Center 120) be amended as follows:

Department of Social Services
Fund 110, Funds Center 120

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
409000	State Aid Revenues	<u>\$1,571,157</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$1,571,157</u>
<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
525097	Emergency Rental Assistance	<u>\$1,571,157</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$1,571,157</u>

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.