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## SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

March 19, 2026

The Honorable  
Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

**Re: Peer Support Services RFP**

Honorable Members:

Attached, please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum requesting authorization to award RFP #2026-006VF to Western New York Independent Living and enter into an agreement with Western New York Independent Living to offer peer support services, pre-release planning and post-release support for incarcerated individuals enrolled in the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program at the Erie County Holding Center and Erie County Correctional Facility.

Representatives of the Sheriff's Office will be made available upon request to answer any questions you may have.

Very Truly Yours,

John C. Garcia  
Sheriff of Erie County

Attachments

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
From: Erie County Sheriff’s Office  
Re: Peer Support Services RFP  
Date: March 19, 2026

**Summary of Recommended Action**

This resolution awards RFP #2026-006VF to Western New York Independent Living and authorizes an agreement with Western New York Independent Living to offer peer support services, pre-release planning and post-release support for incarcerated individuals enrolled in the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program at the Erie County Holding Center and Erie County Correctional Facility. The RFP was issued on January 19, 2026. Proposals were due on February 16, 2026. Three proposals were submitted.

**Fiscal Implications of Proposal**

The total cost of the agreement is \$306,078.00 for a term of three years. This amount covers prorated salary and fringe costs of three Western New York Independent Living staff members (with 3% annual escalation), as well as mileage and indirect costs. A breakdown is as follows:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Salary	\$62,490	\$64,365	\$66,296	\$193,151
Fringe	\$21,872	\$22,528	\$23,204	\$67,604
Mileage	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$5,400
Indirect Costs	\$12,924	\$13,304	\$13,695	\$39,923
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$99,086</b>	<b>\$101,997</b>	<b>\$104,995</b>	<b>\$306,078</b>

Funding has been allocated in the Erie County Sheriff’s Office, Jail Management Division Operating Budget (Fund 110, Fund Center 116), 516010 – Contract Payments.

**Reasons for Recommendation**

Section 7011.4(b)(4) of the New York State Commission of Correction’s Minimum Standards for Local Correctional Facilities requires the Erie County Sheriff’s Office to provide peer support services and discharge planning for enrollees of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program. After scoring the three proposals submitted in response to RFP #2026-006VF, Western New York Independent Living was determined to be the lowest responsible bidder. A summary of the scores is below.

RFP #2026-006VF Vendor Evaluations:

- Evaluator: Sara Coffey  
1) Back to Basics – 49  
2) Creative Restorations – 66

3) WNY Independent Living – 73

Evaluator: Thomas Diina

- 1) Back to Basics – 40
- 2) Creative Restorations – 80
- 3) WNY Independent Living – 85

Evaluator: Jennifer Howell

- 1) Back to Basics – 46
- 2) Creative Restorations – 82
- 3) WNY Independent Living – 85

Total Scores:

- 1) Back to Basics:  $49 + 40 + 46 = 135$
- 2) Creative Restorations:  $66 + 80 + 82 = 228$
- 3) WNY Independent Living:  $73 + 85 + 85 = 243$

Recommended award: WNY Independent Living

#### Consequences of Negative Action

The Erie County Sheriff's Office would not have a qualified vendor to offer peer support services for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program participants, as required by the New York State Commission of Correction's Minimum Standards for Local Correctional Facilities.

#### Steps Following Approval of Measure

Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the Purchasing Department, the County Attorney, the Erie County Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management and the Erie County Sheriff's Office.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:**  
**ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Re: Peer Support Services RFP**

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the Erie County Sheriff's Office to provide quality public safety services to our community by promoting a safe environment through police and citizen interaction, with an emphasis on integrity, fairness and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, Section 7011.4(b)(4) of the New York State Commission of Correction's Minimum Standards for Local Correctional Facilities requires the Erie County Sheriff's Office to provide peer support services, discharge planning and re-entry and transitional support for enrollees of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program; and

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2026, RFP #2026-006VF was issued seeking a provider of peer support services for incarcerated individuals enrolled in the Erie County Sheriff's Office Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program, as well as pre-release planning and post-release support; and

WHEREAS, evaluators considered three proposals; and

WHEREAS, after evaluation of the responses, Western New York Independent Living received the highest score; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office recommends awarding RFP #2026-006VF to Western New York Independent Living; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funding for peer support services, pre-release planning and post-release support exists in the Erie County Sheriff's Office, Jail Management Division Operating Budget (Fund 110, Fund Center 116), 516010 – Contract Payments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature awards RFP #2026-006VF to Western New York Independent Living, 3108 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214; and be it further

RESOLVED, the County Executive and Sheriff are authorized to enter into an agreement with Western New York Independent Living, 3108 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214 for peer support services, pre-release planning and post-release support for participants of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program at the Erie County Holding Center and Erie County Correctional Facility; and be it further

RESOLVED, the total cost of the agreement is not to exceed \$306,078.00 for a term of three years; and be it further

RESOLVED, Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the Purchasing Department, the County Attorney, the Erie County Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management and the Erie County Sheriff's Office.

FISCAL IMPACT: As Indicated