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SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

June 5, 2026

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin St.
Buffalo, New York 14202

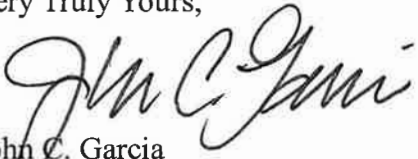
Re: Authorization of Urban Institute Contract

Honorable Members:

Attached, please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum authorizing an agreement with Urban Institute to serve as third-party evaluator for the Kinship Housing Buffalo Program.

Representatives of my 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: Authorization of Urban Institute Contract
Date: June 5, 2026

Summary of Recommended Action

The Erie County Sheriff's Office recommends that the Legislature authorize an agreement with Urban Institute to serve as third-party evaluator for the Kinship Housing Buffalo Program. On October 24, 2024, this Honorable Body authorized the Erie County Sheriff's Office to accept \$1,000,000 from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) as part of the Smart Reentry Housing Demonstration Program and enter into contracts with the Osborne Association and Peaceprints of WNY to administer the Kinship Housing Buffalo Program. This program offers financial resources and support to qualifying and selected incarcerated individuals for the purpose of accessing and maintaining safe and stable housing.

It is a requirement of the BJA grant award that a third-party evaluator be contracted to monitor the program's implementation and ensure targeted outcome measures are met. The grant proposal submitted to the BJA listed Urban Institute as the evaluator.

Fiscal Implications of Proposal

Approval of this agreement will have no impact on county tax dollars. Urban Institute will be paid \$5,000 annually. The funds will come from the BJA grant award.

Reasons for Recommendation

It is generally agreed that access to safe and stable housing is one of the most challenging barriers for incarcerated individuals when they are released from custody and reenter society. The Smart Reentry Housing Demonstration Program offers resources to address this issue. The Erie County Sheriff's Office Community Reintegration Division is committed to developing programming and resources for incarcerated individuals with an ultimate end goal of reducing recidivism. With this mission in mind, the CRD aggressively sought this grant funding and partnership with Osborne Association and Peaceprints of WNY. An additional partnership with Urban Institute is now required to begin implementation of the Kinship Housing Buffalo Program.

Consequences of Negative Action

The Erie County Sheriff's Office will not be able to comply with the terms of the BJA Smart Reentry Housing Demonstration Program and will be unable to implement the Kinship Housing Buffalo Program.

Steps Following Approval of Measure

Certified Copies shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the County Attorney, the Division of Budget and Management, the Purchasing Director and the Erie County Sheriff's Office.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Re: Authorization of Urban Institute Contract

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, the Erie County Sheriff's Office Community Reintegration Division works diligently to assist incarcerated individuals as they reenter society upon release; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Erie County Sheriff's Office was awarded \$1,000,000 through the Smart Reentry Housing Demonstration Program, which is administered by the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA); and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2024, this Honorable Body approved Comm. 17E-1 (2024), which authorized the acceptance of this funding and agreements with the Osborne Association and Peaceprints of WNY to administer the Kinship Housing Buffalo Program; and

WHEREAS, through the Kinship Housing Buffalo Program, qualifying incarcerated individuals will receive resources and support to obtain and maintain safe and stable housing upon their release from custody; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of the grant award requires that the County contract with a third-party evaluator;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature authorizes the County Executive and Sheriff to enter into an agreement with Urban Institute, 500 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington DC 20024 to serve as evaluator of the Kinship Housing Buffalo Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, the annual compensation to Urban Institute shall not exceed \$5,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Erie County Sheriff's Office waives the procedures, as impractical, provided for in Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code for the purposes of contracting with Urban Institute to serve as grant evaluator; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Director of Budget and Management is authorized to establish and adjust budgets as required to comply with state and federal approved funding levels; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the County Attorney, the Division of Budget and Management, the Purchasing Director and the Erie County Sheriff's Office.

FISCAL IMPACT: As Indicated