



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 18, 2026

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

**Re: Authorization to Enter into An Agreement with Research Foundation of SUNY  
for Buffalo State University's LEADS Program for Prevention Data & Dashboard  
Services**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Erie County Department of Mental Health requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Research Foundation of SUNY for Buffalo State University's Learning and Evaluation Assessment and Data Systems (LEADS) program for the continuation of longitudinal prevention data collection, analysis, website, and dashboard services previously supported through OASAS prevention funding.

If your Honorable Body requires any further information, please contact Commissioner Sarah Bonk at the Department of Mental Health. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/sb

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Erie County Department of Mental Health  
**Re:** Authorization to Enter into An Agreement with Research Foundation of SUNY for Buffalo State University's LEADS Program for Prevention Data & Dashboard Services  
**Date:** June 10, 2026

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### **SUMMARY**

The Erie County Department of Mental Health (ECDMH) is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Research Foundation of SUNY for Buffalo State University's Learning and Evaluation Assessment and Data Systems (LEADS) program for the continuation of substance abuse prevention-related longitudinal data collection, gaps analysis, and website-based dashboard services historically supported through New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) prevention funding. For approximately 25 years, this project has been used locally to inform how ECDMH and local agencies target their efforts on substance abuse prevention in various parts of Erie County.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

These services have cost \$42,000 in previous years and there is no anticipated change to expense in 2026. County tax dollars are not necessary because there are unallocated funds from Federal Medicaid Administration Reimbursement (also known as Federal Salary Sharing) funding already within ECDMH to replace the OASAS funding.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

As part of recent OASAS prevention workplan reviews, the State declined to continue prevention funding support for these activities as Erie County's prevention-related data collection, planning, and dashboard activities exceeded the depth and scope of analytic activities being approved in most other counties' prevention workplans. ECDMH has determined that continuation of these services remains locally necessary to support ongoing prevention planning and reporting activities.

ECDMH has further determined that these services represent a continuation of a longstanding prevention-related data and dashboard project utilizing an existing longitudinal data structure and analytic system developed through Buffalo State University's LEADS program. Buffalo State University's LEADS program possesses the institutional knowledge, historical data infrastructure, and specialized expertise necessary to continue these services while maintaining continuity of the existing longitudinal dataset, dashboard structure, and analytic framework.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

For approximately 25 years, ECDMH supported a longitudinal prevention data and risk assessment initiative in partnership with Buffalo State University's LEADS program and Dr. Alan Delmerico through OASAS prevention funding, as a subcontract through WNY United Against Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Inc. The project has historically provided prevention-related data analytics, reporting, and dashboard services utilized to support prevention planning and service analysis. Research Foundation of SUNY is the contracting entity in this case.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Failure to approve this action may result in the discontinuation of longstanding prevention-related data collection, reporting, and dashboard services utilized to support effective prevention planning and longitudinal service analysis activities within Erie County.

## **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

A contract by and between the County of Erie and acting by and through the Erie County Department of Mental Health and Research Foundation of SUNY will be initiated to include the aforementioned service offered through Buffalo State University's LEADS program. Once the contract is fully executed, ECDMH will monitor the provider's program operations, performance goals and contract compliance activities as it pertains to this service.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Re: Authorization to Enter into An Agreement with Research Foundation of SUNY for Buffalo State University's LEADS Program for Prevention Data & Dashboard Services

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health has historically supported longitudinal prevention data collection, analysis, and dashboard services in partnership with Buffalo State University's Learning and Evaluation Assessment and Data Systems (LEADS) program; and

WHEREAS, Buffalo State University's LEADS program has provided prevention-related data analytics, reporting, and dashboard services utilized to support prevention planning and service analysis within Erie County; and

WHEREAS, recent OASAS prevention workplan determinations resulted in the discontinuation of prevention funding support for these activities; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health has determined that continuation of these services remains necessary to support ongoing prevention planning, longitudinal reporting, and prevention-related data analysis activities; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health has further determined that the requested services represent a continuation of a longstanding prevention-related data and dashboard project utilizing an existing longitudinal data structure and unique analytic system developed through Buffalo State University's LEADS program, and that Buffalo State University's LEADS program possesses the institutional knowledge, historical data infrastructure, and specialized expertise necessary to continue these services while maintaining continuity of the existing dataset, dashboard structure, and analytic framework; and

WHEREAS, Research Foundation of SUNY is the contracting entity in this circumstance; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health consulted with the Erie County Attorney's Office and the Division of Purchase regarding the proposed procurement structure; and

WHEREAS, authorization is hereby requested to waive the procedures of Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code for purposes of entering into this agreement; and

WHEREAS, funding for these services is already available within the Erie County Department of Mental Health's budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into contract, waiving the procedures in Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code, with Research Foundation of SUNY for Buffalo State University's LEADS program for prevention-related longitudinal data collection, analysis, and dashboard services in an amount not to exceed \$42,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to amend the Department of Mental Health's (Fund 110, Funds Center 12410) 2026 Adopted Budget as follows:

Department of Mental Health,  
Fund 110, Funds Center 12410

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>
411000 – MH Fed Medi Sal Sh	\$42,000
<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Increase</u>
517764 – Research Fdn of SUNY	\$42,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be furnished to the County Executive's Office, Department of Mental Health and Division of Budget and Management.