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SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

July 6, 2026

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

Re: Agreement With Empower Federal Credit Union

Honorable Members:

Attached, please find a proposed resolution and accompany memorandum authorizing an agreement with Empower Federal Credit Union to conduct financial literacy classes as part of 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: Agreement With Empower Federal Credit Union
Date: July 6, 2026

Summary of Recommended Action

The Erie County Sheriff's Office recommends that the legislature authorize an agreement with Empower Federal Credit Union to provide financial literacy training to incarcerated individuals who are participating in the Kinship Housing Buffalo Program.

Fiscal Implications of Proposal

This action will have no impact on county tax dollars, as there is no financial compensation provided to Empower Federal Credit Union.

Reasons for Recommendation

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. This funding will be used by the Sheriff's Office, in partnership with Osborne Association and Peaceprints of WNY, to administer the Kinship Housing Buffalo Program. The program offers financial resources and support to qualifying and selected incarcerated individuals for the purpose of accessing and maintaining safe and stable housing upon their release from custody.

Financial literacy classes are an important and required element of Kinship Buffalo. It will offer participants training on how to manage the funds provided to them through the program.

Consequences of Negative Action

The Erie County Sheriff's Office would be unable to contract with Empower Federal Credit Union to offer financial literacy training to participants of the Kinship Housing Buffalo Program.

Steps Following Approval of Measure

Certified Copies shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the County Attorney, and the Erie County Sheriff's Office.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Re: Agreement With Empower Federal Credit Union

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, 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, Empower Federal Credit Union has agreed to provide financial literacy training to participants of the Kinship Housing Buffalo Program at no cost to the county; and

WHEREAS, this training will provide participants with techniques to properly manage the funds that are provided to them through this program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive and Sheriff are authorized to enter into an agreement with Empower Federal Credit Union, 2141 Elmwood Avenue, Suite 100, Buffalo, NY 14207 to offer financial literacy programming to participants of the Kinship Housing Buffalo Program; 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 Empower Federal Credit Union to provide financial literacy training to participants of the Kinship Housing Buffalo Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, Certified Copies shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the County Attorney, and the Erie County Sheriff's Office.

FISCAL IMPACT: As Indicated