



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 3, 2026

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

Re: Authorization to Contract for Trauma-Informed Care Training

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a resolution from the Department for the Aging (Department) requesting authorization to contract at a cost of \$60,427, with The University at Buffalo School of Social Work's Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care (ITTIC), under the auspices of The Research Foundation for The State University of New York, to provide Trauma-Informed Care Training for the Department and its contract agencies. The ITTIC, a nationally recognized leader in this field, was selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

Should your Honorable Body require any further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Randall Hoak. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/md
Enclosure

cc: Randall Hoak, Commissioner, Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department for the Aging
Re: Authorization to Contract for Trauma-Informed Care Training
Date: September 3, 2026

SUMMARY

Approve the attached resolution to allow the Department for the Aging (Department) to contract at a cost of \$60,472, with The University at Buffalo School of Social Work's Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care (ITTIC), under the auspices of The Research Foundation for The State University of New York, to provide Trauma-Informed Care Training for the Department and its contract agencies, for the period of October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027. The ITTIC was selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to provide to approximately 100 employees of the Department and its contract agencies to equip them with specialized tools and trauma-responsive strategies to support and benefit existing and future clients who have experienced trauma within their lives.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional County funds are required to cover the training's cost. Existing appropriations are available in the Department's 163UNMETNEED2627 grant's Professional Services Contracts and Fees account (#516020) to pay for the training through the period ending March 31, 2027. Funding for the remaining months will be included as part of the Department's 2027 County Budget in the successor grant.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The purpose of this initiative is to strengthen the capacity of the aging services network to deliver trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and resilient services to older adults and caregivers and establish a shared trauma-informed framework across the Erie County aging services network. ITTIC is a nationally recognized leader in advancing trauma-informed knowledge, practice, and organizational change and has vast experience in equipping organizations across local, state, national, and global settings with the skills and structures needed to understand the impacts of trauma and reduce re-traumatization. The training provided by ITTIC will be a robust twelve-month long education and coaching experience that will provide the Department and its contract agencies with the knowledge, skills, and confidence necessary to integrate trauma-informed principles into practice and strengthen outcomes for aging adults, caregivers, and the workforce. The ITTIC training content will also address response to and re-ignition of workplace stressors and individual trauma, while promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility with attention to age-related inequities, to establish workforce wellness, resilience, and culturally responsive support for those working directly with older adults.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department for the Aging would not be able to provide trauma-informed care training for approximately 100 employees of the Department and its contract agencies with the knowledge, skills, and confidence necessary to integrate trauma-informed principles into practice and strengthen outcomes for aging adults, caregivers, and the workforce throughout Erie County.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department for the Aging will contract with The University at Buffalo School of Social Work's Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care (ITTIC), under the auspices of The Research Foundation for The State University of New York, and the Department will begin training to better serve the older adult population and/or their caregivers throughout Erie County.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING

Re: Authorization to Contract for Trauma Informed-Care Training

WHEREAS, the Department for the Aging (Department) is looking to strengthen the capacity of the aging services network to deliver trauma-informed, culturally responsive and resilient services to older adults and caregivers throughout Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the Department seeks to strengthen the system by adopting a Trauma-Informed approach across the aging services network, promoting improved outcomes for both clients and staff; and

WHEREAS, the Department, through an RFP process, selected The University at Buffalo School of Social Work's Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care (ITTIC), under the auspices of The Research Foundation for The State University of New York, to provide Trauma-Informed Care Training for the Department and its contract agencies; and

WHEREAS, the ITTIC will provide the training over the period of October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027, at the cost of \$60,472 with an option to extend for up to one additional twelve month period at prices and conditions agreed upon by County and Provider; and

WHEREAS, budgetary appropriations are available in the Department's 163UNMETNEED2627 grant's Professional Services Contracts and Fees account (#516020) to pay for the training through the period ending March 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, funding for the remaining months will be included as part of the Department's 2027 County Budget in the successor grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes County Executive or Deputy County Executive to contract with The University at Buffalo School of Social Work's Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care (ITTIC), under the auspices of The Research Foundation for The State University of New York, to provide to provide Trauma-Informed Care for the Department during the period of October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027, with an option to extend for up to one additional twelve month period at prices and conditions agreed upon by County and Provider; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given that budgetary appropriations are available in the Department's 163UNMETNEED2627 grant's Professional Services Contracts and Fees account (#516020) be utilized to pay for the training through the period ending March 31, 2027, with subsequent months finding to be included in the successor grant as part of the Department's 2027 County Budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that if necessary, the County Executive or Deputy County Executive is hereby authorized to execute amendments to the contract to effectuate adjusted funding levels; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive's Office, Division of Budget and Management, Department of Law and Department for the Aging.

RFP # 2026-030VF

Scoring Summary & Funding Recommendations

Agency	Total Score	Ranking by Score	Requested Contract Amount	Recommended Award Length
AEW Educational Enterprises	44.67	7	\$62,700	Agency was not recommended
Chefalo Consulting	69.33	5	\$175,000	Agency was not recommended
Compassionate Edge Consulting	68.67	6	\$198,000	Agency was not recommended
RC Warner Consulting, LLC	91.33	2	\$220,000	Agency was not recommended
SARGARD, LLC	81	3	\$158,613	Agency was not recommended
Silver Linings International, LLC	76.67	4	\$321,255	Agency was not recommended
The University at Buffalo School of Social Work's Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care, under the auspices of The Research Foundation for The State University of New York	93.33	1	\$60,472	1 Year with potential of 1 additional year
Mental Health and Christian Consulting, under the auspices of Vandolyn Lane, LMHC	42.00	8	\$148,500	Agency was not recommended



Erie County Department for the Aging

Recommendation for RFP #: 2026-030VF

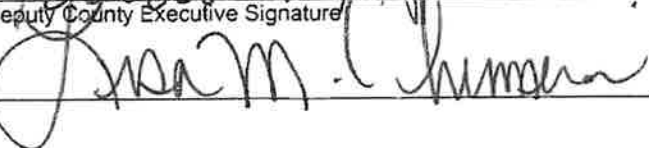
Date: 6/15/2026

The review committee has completed its task of evaluating the proposals for the above-named RFP. The proposals were graded individually by each reviewer as well by Administration as to compliance with the RFP requirements and fiscal compliance/soundness.

Agency	TOTAL SCORE	RANKING by Score	Requested Contract Amount	Recommended Award
UB School of Social Work	93.33	1	\$60,472/year	Up to 2 Years

It is recommended that the University at Buffalo School of Social Work provide Trauma-Informed Care Training for the department. Supporting documentation is included in this packet.

The Department for the Aging has complied with all applicable provisions of Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code.

Committee Chair Signature 	Printed Name Melissa Dentice	Date 6/15/2026
Committee Co-Chair Signature 	Printed Name Jaclyn Strawbrich	Date 6/15/2026
Commissioner Signature 	Printed Name Randall Hoak	Date 6/18/26
Deputy County Executive Signature 	Printed Name Lisa Chimera	Date 6/18/26

Once reviewed and approved, please return to Melissa Dentice, Senior Coordinator of Neighborhood Services in Room #1344 for processing. Thank you.