



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 2, 2026

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Department of Social Services – Youth Bureau– Authorization to enter into
Contract with Compass House and United Church Home (Plymouth Crossroads)**

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services Youth Bureau is seeking approval to enter into contract with Compass House and United Church Home (Plymouth Crossroads) to provide Runaway and Homeless Services to Erie County Youth.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Karen Rybicki at the Department of Social Services. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "M" and "P".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mmk

Enclosure

cc: Commissioner of Social Services Karen Rybicki

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Social Services Youth Bureau
Re: Authorization to enter into Contract with Compass House and United Church Home
Date: October 2, 2026

SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services Youth Bureau to enter into contract with Compass House and United Church Home (Plymouth Crossroads) to provide Runaway and Homeless Services to youth in Erie County. The services that will be provided include crisis shelter, transitional independent living programs, and non-residential supports for runaway and homeless youth.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding for this project is available in the Homeless/Runaway Contract lines of the 2026 Adopted Budget (Account #517649 and #517653).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Erie County Department of Social Services Youth Bureau was awarded funding from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) based on information contained in our annual Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP). Each year, hundreds of youth are served by runaway and homeless youth services which provide critical stabilization supports for vulnerable youth. Runaway and Homeless services are grounded in the positive youth development framework, recognizing youth's strengths, and supporting them in making choices that improve their safety and personal development. The goal of this program is to provide a safe and supportive environment so that youth can become empowered and independent. All residential programs must be certified by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

These important services could not be provided.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Social Services Youth Bureau will establish contracts with Compass House and United Church Home (Plymouth Crossroads) to support the Runaway and Homeless Services to youth in Erie County.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES – YOUTH BUREAU

Re: Authorization to enter into Contract with Compass House and United Church Home (Plymouth Crossroads)

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) appropriated funding for district costs related to supporting Runaway and Homeless Youth services; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the Homeless Runaway lines (Account # 517649 and #517653) of the 2026 Adopted budget; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services Youth Bureau issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) #2026-004VF; and

WHEREAS, Compass House and United Church Home (Plymouth Crossroads) responded to the RFP with strong proposals; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services Youth Bureau wishes to have Compass House and United Church Home (Plymouth Crossroads) provide Runaway and Homeless Services to Erie County Youth; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into contract with Compass House and United Church Home (Plymouth Crossroads) to provide Runaway and Homeless Services to Erie County Youth; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the sufficient funds to cover the cost of this contract already exists within the Department of Social Services Youth Bureau 2026 General Fund Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 12530) Account 517649 and Account 517653; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the Division of Budget and Management to make any additional budget adjustment which may be required in order to match expense with State funding allocation adjustments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Erie County Executive's Office, Comptroller's Office, Department of Social Services, and Division of Budget and Management.



Department of Social Services

Recommendation for RFP 2026-004VF: Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)

Date: August 4, 2026

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

Agency	TOTAL SCORE	RANKING by Score	Current Funding Amount	Requested Amount	Recommended Award	RANKING by Vote
COMPASS HOUSE	97.00	1	\$155,000	\$357,792	\$ 224,671.00	1
UNITED CHURCH HOME	85.33	2	\$221,623	\$357,792	\$ 138,259.00	2
URBAN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES	49.33	3	-	\$120,000	-	3
DO FOR SELF FOUNDATION, INC	48.33	4	-	\$100,000	-	4

It is recommended that Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Services be funded as outlined above for Erie County in 2026-2027. Supporting documentation is included in this packet.

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

Executive Director Youth Bureau (Soc. Ser.) Signature <i>Katherine Hilliman</i>	Printed Name Katherine Hilliman	Date 8/5/26
Commissioner Signature <i>Karen Rybicki</i>	Printed Name Karen Rybicki	Date 8/5/26
Deputy County Executive Signature <i>Lisa M. Chimera</i>	Printed Name Lisa Chimera	Date 8/5/26

Once reviewed and approved, please return for processing. Thank you.