



# Tompkins County **Social Services**

**2019 Budget Presentation**

September 17, 2018

# Recommended Budget

	2018 Modified	2019 Recommended	\$ Change	% Change
Expenditures	45,297,943	57,775,509	12,477,566	27.55%
Revenues	-25,682,511	-37,875,616	-12,193,105	47.48%
Net Local	19,615,432	19,899,893	284,461	1.45%

# A Major Influence:

## *“Raise the Age” of Legal Responsibility*

- RTA costs are 100% State-reimbursed
- Our 2019 budget request reflects:
  - \$3,293,146 in anticipated foster care, aftercare, and detention\* costs for RTA youth (based on State estimates)
  - \$8,897,243 in “Anchor County” State pass-throughs to two foster care agencies
- *Not* reflected: prevention or diversion services.

\* we'll cover late-breaking news on this topic at end of presentation

# Recommended Budget

## “Raise the Age” portion

	2018 Modified	2019 Recommended	\$ Change	% Change
Expenditures	0	12,190,389	12,190,389	n.a.
Revenues	0	-12,190,389	-12,190,389	n.a.
Net Local	0	0	0	n.a.

# Recommended Budget

*Excluding “Raise the Age”*

	2018 Modified	2019 Recommended	\$ Change	% Change
Expenditures	45,297,943	45,585,120	287,177	0.63%
Revenues	-25,682,511	-25,685,227	-2,716	0.01%
Net Local	19,615,432	19,899,893	284,461	1.45%

# Major Influences on Net Local Cost

- ↑ Local share of Medicaid
- ↑ Low-income housing crisis
- ↓ Public assistance caseloads
- ↑ Foster Care and Adoption Subsidy rates
- ↑ Foster Care Block Grant allocation
- ↓ Day care for foster kids
- ↑ Contractually-driven Personnel costs
- ↓ Position management

# Major Influences

- Medicaid “Weekly Shares”
  - Although local contributions are capped, NYS DOH’s calculation methodology produces year-to-year changes that even out over a multi-year cycle of varying lengths.
  - For 2019 our net local cost will increase by about \$242K.
  - (Note: this should be offset by *an at least* equal reduction to our share in 2020.)

# Major Influences (cont'd)

- Lack of affordable housing increasing average cost per public assistance case
  - Reflecting Emergency Shelter's high cost as compared to Permanent housing
  - Note: Family Assistance 0% local share  
Safety Net 71% local share

# Major Influences (cont'd)

- 8.7% decline in public assistance cases
  - Fortunately the impact of increasing average cost per public assistance case is being partly offset caseload reductions
  - At the end of June 2018 we had 95 fewer recipients comprising 44 fewer public assistance cases compared to the same time last year.

# Major Influences (cont'd)

- Foster and Adoptive Payment Rates
  - NYS approved increases of 3.25% when we'd budgeted for only a 2% increase
- Reduced Capped Reimb. Allocations
  - Foster Care Block Grant allocation reduced by \$166K
  - Other changes to our capped revenue allocations net out to a \$34K reduction
  - These directly increase net local cost

# Major Influences (cont'd)

- Altering our approach to paying day care subsidies for foster care kids
  - Earlier this year we identified potential local savings if we paid for this care through dedicated Day Care cases instead of doing so through the child's foster care case
  - We implemented this change in April, and now estimate that annual local savings at \$115K will result

# Full-Time Equivalents

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 Target	2019 Rec	# Change	% Change
187.89	184.49	179.49	183.44	182.44	178.43	"	-4.01	-2.20%

The Department of Social Services has worked hard to manage our authorized positions in such a way as to strike the right balance between addressing shifting programmatic needs, treating staff with consideration, and using local tax dollars responsibly.

# Position Management

## *Vacancies*

- Reflecting our aging workforce, since this time last year **7.2% of our co-workers** have either retired from service (12) or, sadly, passed away (2).
- We've also experienced the usual run of vacancies resulting from transfers and resignations.
- In managing these vacancies, we've tried to address several **challenges**.

# Position Management *Challenges*

- State takeover of administration of 1/3 of all Medicaid cases by April 2019
- Increased workloads in emergency housing, adult protective services, and child protective services
- Implementing the county's best practice regarding *Information Aide* promotions

# Position Management

## *Eligibility Divisions*

- In order to avoid potential layoffs next year, as Medicaid caseloads have declined, we've both
  - reduced Eligibility staffing overall and
  - reassigned staff from Medicaid to fill vacancies in other Eligibility programs

# Position Management

## *Children's Services*

### Adding staff for Child Protective Services

- The complexity and severity of cases have increased, due to opioid abuse, housing instability, and domestic violence
- To make caseload sizes more manageable and improve the timeliness and quality of our investigations and interventions, we're staffing a new CPS unit consisting of  
1 Case Supervisor and 4 FTE Sr. Caseworkers

# Position Management

## *Information Aides*

- We've been advised that *Information Aides* are usually promoted to "level 1" *Admin Assistants* as soon as they establish their eligibility via a civil service exam
- We've now adopted this practice, according to our improved understanding of the Legislature's intentions when this entry-level title was created

# Position Management

## *DSS titles with more or fewer FTEs*

Medicaid caseload reduction	FTE
Senior Social Welfare Examiner	(1.00)
Social Welfare Examiner	(3.00)
Transition Workforce Specialist	(1.00)

Creation of new CPS unit	FTE
Case Supervisor "B"	1.00
Senior Caseworker	4.00
Caseworker	(1.00)

Child Support	FTE
Senior Financial Investigator	(1.00)

Clerical Support	FTE
Information Aide	(6.29)
Administrative Assistant - Level 1	8.43
Keyboard Specialist	(3.00)
Receptionist	(1.00)

Other changes in Administration	FTE
Senior Account Clerk/Typist	(2.00)
Administrative Assistant - Level 3	2.00
Security Officer	(0.15)
Senior Clerk	(1.00)
Staff Development & Quality Coor	1.00

Net change: **-4.01** FTEs

# Position Management

## *Points of Pride*

Social Services did **not** increase staff during the last economic downturn

Despite that, as the economy has improved we've cumulatively **reduced our staff by 9.0 FTEs (4.7%)** since 2014, with nearly half that reduction occurring since last year

We're addressing programmatic and staffing challenges, treating workers fairly, and reducing the local tax burden when we can

# Over-Target Request

## *Recommended*

Page #	OTR #	Priority	Req. OTR	Req. Source	Rec. OTR	Rec. Source	Purpose
4-248	46	1	\$42,000	One-Time	\$42,000	One-Time	STEHP Program Expansion

## STEHP Expansion

- **“Solutions to End Homelessness Program”** is a competitive grant combining Federal and NYS funds
- We’ve been awarded funds for the past 8 years
- We subcontract with **Tompkins Community Action** to run two program components:
  - Rapid Re-housing
  - Prevention

# STEHP Expansion OTR

Rapid Re-Housing serves homeless persons, while Prevention serves persons facing imminent eviction.

For both programs, TCA contracts with recipients, paying a declining share of their rent over a year while they take specific steps to increase to 100% the share of their housing cost that they are paying without this assistance.

# STEHP Expansion OTR (cont'd)

These programs have been successful.

Over the past 2 years, participating households concluded their program engagement with stable, permanent housing as follows:

- Rapid Re-Housing 83% (10 of 12 households)
- Prevention 63% (19 of 30 households)

However, the grant funds were sufficient to cover only 75% of the service need. To fill the gap, we're requesting renewal of the local funding that was approved for 2018.

# Changed Expectations

Since our Budget Request submission

- “Raise the Age”
  - last Friday OCFS announced that operators of *RTA Secure Detention* and *RTA Specialized Secure Detention* facilities will not bill local districts like ours for placements of our kids; the State will pay them directly
  - We’ll submit a revision to our 2019 Request, to back out the costs we’d anticipated for those placements. (No local cost impact, as RTA is 100% state-funded.)

# Changed Expectations

Since our Budget Request submission

- Homeless Services contracts
  - All three responses to our Request for Proposals reflected significant gross and net local cost increases
  - Our preferred proposal will result in a net local cost increase of approximately \$200K
  - When we finish negotiating terms we'll submit the necessary adjustments for inclusion in our requested 2019 Budget

# Other factors with potential to impact our 2019 budget

- Outcome of Federal IV-E Audit (underway)
- Possible Federal changes to the “Food Stamps” program (current law expires 9/30/18)
- “Raise the Age” Phase 2 (10/1/19)
- Title IV-E “Family First” changes (10/1/19)
- New Day Care Market Rates (due this fall)
- NYS Office of Information Technology-driven changes

# Other factors with potential to impact our 2019 budget

- Outcome of Federal IV-E Audit
  - Case and payment records of a sample of 80 Foster Care cases across the state currently are being reviewed
  - 3 Tompkins County cases were selected
  - Fiscal penalties (in the form of reduced Federal reimbursement) may be applied state-wide if as few as 5% (4 cases!) don't conform perfectly with requirements

# Other factors with potential to impact our 2019 budget (cont'd)

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly “Food Stamps”)
  - Potential changes to program eligibility and/or funding structure
- Continuing implementation of the “Raise the Age” initiative
  - Will apply to 17-year-olds in October 2019
  - We will have ~6 months of experience with RTA 16-year olds when our first 2020 budget projections are due

# Other factors with potential to impact our 2019 budget (cont'd)

- Federal Title IV-E program is changing
  - Source of Federal funding for approximately half of our foster care cases
  - “Family First” goes into effect 10/1/2019
  - Federal reimbursement for placements in congregate care setting will be time-limited
  - New York State’s response is unknown at this time

# Other factors with potential to impact our 2019 budget (cont'd)

- OCFS usually calculates new day care subsidy amounts every 2 years
  - They last did so in 2016, so they're due
- NYS-driven IT changes
  - File server virtualization
  - Virtual Desktop Interface (VDI)
  - Declining support for equipment maintenance/repair
  - Integrated Eligibility System (IES)



# Tompkins County **Social Services**

## Questions?

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