

1 **NYSAC 2021 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4 **Resolution Calling on the Governor and State Legislature to Not Shift More**  
5 **Costs to Counties and New York City for State Controlled Social Service**  
6 **Programs**

7 **WHEREAS**, over the last decade the state has devolved away from their historic and  
8 constitutional responsibilities of providing social services and support for low-income  
9 families and individuals, as demonstrated through significant reductions in state  
10 financial support for these programs, thereby shifting costs to counties and New York  
11 City; and

12 **WHEREAS**, these state funding shifts have increased county and New York City social  
13 services costs by hundreds of millions of dollars annually because the state requires that  
14 all services still be provided in full, sometimes including added or more comprehensive  
15 service levels, but with less state resources; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the State, with the onset of the COVID pandemic, has resorted to cutting  
17 Aid to Localities spending across the board, five percent in state fiscal year 2021 and at  
18 least five percent in state fiscal year 2022; and

19 **WHEREAS**, New York City has been targeted with additional social services and public  
20 health cost shifts by the state that have increased the City's costs by at least \$300  
21 million more each year, on top of the other cuts mentioned; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the steady pullback in State funding support has been expansive and  
23 includes cuts to child welfare, adoption subsidies, food stamp administration, Family  
24 Assistance, Safety Net, youth detention and treatment, and foster care; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, in state fiscal year 2022 the proposed budget would expand state funding  
27 cuts to nearly every social service program the state requires counties and New York City  
28 to fund; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the net effect of these practices is that it forces local property taxes to be  
30 higher than they should because of the additional costs borne by counties and New York  
31 City; and

32 **WHEREAS**, most other states do not require counties to fund such a large share of  
33 public assistance costs.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
2 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and State Legislature to not impose new social  
3 services cost shifts on counties and to place social services programs at the top of the list  
4 when restorations are made; and

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the state should focus on reforming their social  
6 service programs by prioritizing employment as a key to achieving self-sufficiency and  
7 long-term independence for residents receiving Family Assistance and Safety Net  
8 Assistance; and

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
10 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
12 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed  
13 necessary and proper.