

1 **NYSAC 2022 Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**
3 **Resolution #2**

4
5 **Resolution Calling on the Governor and State Legislature to Increase State**
6 **Funding Support for the Foster Care Block Grant to Pay for the Rate**
7 **Increase Enacted in the SFY 2023 Budget and Also Increase State Funding**
8 **for Safety Net Programs**
9

10 **WHEREAS**, over the last 15 years, the State has devolved away from their historic and
11 constitutional responsibility to provide social services and support for low-income
12 families and individuals, as demonstrated through significant reductions in state
13 financial support for these programs, thereby shifting state costs and responsibilities to
14 counties and New York City; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, these state funding shifts have increased county and New York City social
17 services costs by hundreds of millions of dollars annually because the state requires that
18 all services still be provided in full, sometimes including new and more comprehensive
19 service levels, but with fewer state resources; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, these cuts include lowering state fiscal matching funds for Safety Net
22 Programs from 50 percent to 29 percent along with maximizing federal funding to offset
23 some of this loss, but the federal funds no longer offset losses for most counties today;
24 and

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26 **WHEREAS**, the enacted State Fiscal Year 2023 budget eliminated the 45-day waiting
27 period for cash assistance under the Safety Net Program, which will increase county
28 (\$22 million) and New York City (\$40 million) costs by \$62 million annually; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, state funding support for the Foster Care Block Grant was cut by \$62
31 million in State Fiscal Year 2018, a 14 percent reduction; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, the enacted State Fiscal Year 2023 budget included provisions to settle
34 longstanding state litigation related to inadequate foster care rates paid to foster parents
35 in New York City; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, counties were not a party to this settlement, nor consulted during state
38 settlement negotiations; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, state funding for the Foster Care Block Grant is capped, which means
41 counties are required to pay the full cost of the scheduled rate increases that will be
42 spread over two years and will likely range between 20 percent to 50 percent when fully
43 implemented; and

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45 **WHEREAS**, initial estimates of new costs upon full implementation are \$200 million,
46 (\$117 million for New York City and \$83 million for the 57 counties); and

1 **WHEREAS**, in a recent state negotiated settlement to end litigation related to the
2 adequacy of state resources provided for indigent criminal defense services, the Hurrell-
3 Haring agreement provided 100 percent state funding support for all new costs of the
4 settlement, and this should be the model for all state settlements that increase costs.
5
6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the New York State Association of
7 Counties (NYSAC) urges the Governor and State Legislature to fully fund the foster care
8 rate increases included in the SFY 2023 budget; and
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10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC urges the Governor and Legislature to
11 increase the state’s 29 percent Safety Net Program share back to 50 percent without
12 further reducing any other public assistance reimbursement before considering future
13 benefit expansions in this program; and
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15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
16 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and
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18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
19 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed
20 necessary and proper.