2024 NYSAC Legislative Conference 1 **NYSAC Board of Directors** 2 **Resolution #1** 3 4 **Resolution Calling on the Governor to Complete Enhanced Federal Medical** 5 Assistance Percentage Reconciliations that are Years Overdue and Provide 6 a Full Accounting of Funds Owed to Counties and New York City and a 7 8 Schedule for Release of these Federal Funds 9 **WHEREAS**, the funding to support the Medicaid program is provided by a 10 combination of federal, state and local resources; and 11 12 WHEREAS, the state requires the counties and New York City to contribute \$7.6 13 billion annually to pay for the federal and state defined and controlled program; and 14 15 WHEREAS, additionally, counties and New York City also voluntarily contribute about 16 \$1 billion annually to draw down available federal funds to support publicly owned or 17 supported nursing homes, clinics, and hospitals; and 18 19 WHEREAS, the local share the state requires counties and New York City to pay is the 20 highest of any state in the country; and 21 22 **WHEREAS**, this large local funding share for Medicaid and other state programs is a 23 major contributor to New York's high local tax burden compared to other states; and 24 25 26 WHEREAS, under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the COVID era the federal government provided an enhanced Medicaid matching share (eFMAP), which has saved 27New York state billions of dollars; and 28 29 **WHEREAS**, the state has utilized a methodology that provides 80 percent of these 30 estimated federal savings to counties in the year the costs accrue followed by a 31 reconciliation in the following year of the remaining 20 percent of savings; and 32 33 WHEREAS, for the first three years after enactment of the Affordable Care Act the 34 state followed through on a relatively timely basis with the initial pass through of 35 savings based on 80 percent of the estimated value of these federal savings to counties 36 and New York City and the reconciling the remaining 20 percent; and 37 38 WHEREAS, the last completed reconciliation and transfer of federal savings owed to 39 40 counties was for state fiscal year 2015-16 with the reconciliation being implemented in December of 2020; and 41 42 WHEREAS, as of February 1, 2024, counties and New York City are waiting on seven 43 years of unfinished reconciliations; and 44

2 unreconciled eFMAP funds have come via FOIL requests for SFY 2017-2020; and 3 4 WHEREAS, as of February 8, 2022, 34 counties have received responses from DOH to their FOIL inquiries and that these calculations show that up to \$232 million is owed to 5 6 these counties from Affordable Care Act eFMAP reconciliations; and 7 8 **WHEREAS**, the state utilized the same 80 percent pass through methodology for the 9 distribution of federal COVID eFMAP savings provided from 2020-2024, but no reconciliations have been completed for these years; and 10 11 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties has submitted FOIL requests 12 on behalf of all counties for federal COVID eFMAP savings distributed to counties; and 13 14 WHEREAS, the federal COVID eFMAP savings are mandated to be shared with 15 counties under federal law; and 16 17 18 **WHEREAS**, the state identified at the beginning of the COVID crisis that the local share of these federal savings would be about 17.8 percent, but publicly available data 19 indicates only about 12.7 percent has been shared with counties and this has required 20 21 NYSAC to FOIL the New York State Department of Health because hundreds of millions of dollars in federal savings have yet to distributed; and 22 23 **WHEREAS**, because the state is withholding these federal funds it requires counties 24 and New York City to reserve funds locally to make up for the loss, meaning local taxes 25 have been kept higher than they need to be over multiple years, or local services are 26 scaled back or eliminated. 27 28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the New York State Association of 29 Counties (NYSAC) urges the Governor to complete these unfinished reconciliations as 30 soon as possible and to provide counties and New York City a full accounting of the 31 federal funds owed, and to take immediate steps to release the funds to localities; and 32 33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of 34 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and 35 36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to 37 38 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the New York State

WHEREAS, the only accounting counties have received from the state of the

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39 Congressional Delegation, and all others deemed necessary and proper.