

1 **NYSAC 2022 Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4 **Resolution Urging the Governor and New York State Legislature to Restore**  
5 **Critical State Funding Support for Child Welfare Services, Safety Net**  
6 **Programs and to Fully Fund the Recent Foster Care Rate Settlement with**  
7 **State Resources**

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

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

17 **WHEREAS**, these cuts include a reduction of state fiscal match from 65 percent to 62  
18 percent for child welfare services, and lowering state fiscal matching funds for Safety  
19 Net Programs from 50 percent to 29 percent along with maximizing federal funding to  
20 offset some of this loss, but the federal funds no longer offset losses for most counties  
21 today; and

22 **WHEREAS**, state funding support for the Foster Care Block Grant was cut by \$62  
23 million in state fiscal year 2018, a 14 percent reduction; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Governor's state fiscal year 2023 budget proposal would eliminate the  
25 45-day waiting period for cash assistance under the Safety Net Program which will  
26 increase county and New York City costs by \$40 million annually; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the SFY 2023 budget proposal includes provisions to settle long standing  
28 state litigation related to inadequate foster care rates paid to foster parents; and

29 **WHEREAS**, in another recent state negotiated settlement to end litigation the Hurrell-  
30 Haring agreement provided 100 percent state funding support for all new costs of the  
31 settlement; and

1 **WHEREAS**, counties and New York City were not part of the foster care payment  
2 adequacy lawsuit or the settlement and it was the New York State Office for Children  
3 and Family Services that agreed to its terms, including significant increases in  
4 expenditures, without providing a corresponding increase in state funds to support the  
5 settlement and the Foster Care Block Grant.

6 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the State should provide 100 percent of  
7 the necessary funding to cover the settlement they negotiated with The Adoptive and  
8 Foster Family Coalition of New York, estimated at \$200 million by county officials (\$117  
9 million for New York City and \$83 million for the remaining counties) for the cost of  
10 reaching the Maximum State Aid Rate, plus annual rate increases, along with additional  
11 funds to cover the new Extraordinary rate category, which has been publicized as a 46  
12 percent increase to New York City with other increases statewide; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)  
14 urges the Governor and the Legislature to restore the state open ended child welfare  
15 matching rate to 65 percent; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC urges the Governor and Legislature to restore  
17 state matching support for Safety Net Programs to 50 percent without further reducing  
18 any other public assistance reimbursement before considering benefit expansions as  
19 proposed; and

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

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
23 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed  
24 necessary and proper.