

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 651 OF 2015

Resolution introduced by Supervisors Monroe, Girard, Sokol, Wood, Frasier, Westcott and Strough

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RESOLUTION OF YATES COUNTY URGING THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TO GRADUALLY RESTORE THE 50/50 STATE/COUNTY SHARING FOR THE SAFETY NET PROGRAM AND TO INCREASE SHELTER GRANT REIMBURSEMENT TO COUNTIES

WHEREAS, Yates County adopted Resolution No. 368-15 to Urge the Governor and Legislature to Gradually Restore the 50/50 State/County Sharing for the Safety net Program and to Increase Shelter Grant Reimbursement to Counties and is requesting that Warren County join in supporting the resolution, a copy of which is attached hereto as Schedule "A", now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors hereby supports Yates County in Urging the Governor and Legislature to Gradually Restore the 50/50 State/County Sharing for the Safety net Program and to Increase Shelter Grant Reimbursement to Counties, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to forward copies of this resolution to the New York State Association of Counties; Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; Senator Elizabeth O'C. Little; Assemblyman Daniel G. Stec and Yates County.

SCHEDULE "A"

RESOLUTION NO. 368-15

RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TO GRADUALLY RESTORE THE 50/50 STATE/COUNTY SHARING FOR THE SAFETY NET PROGRAM AND TO INCREASE SHELTER GRANT REIMBURSEMENT TO COUNTIES

WHEREAS, the 2011-2012 State budget dramatically lowered the State's fiscal responsibility in the Safety net program by shifting the cost of 71 percent county/29 percent state, severing the historic 50 percent county/50 percent New York State partnership; and

WHEREAS, this continues a long line of state legislative actions that have transferred the State's constitutional and fiscal responsibility to care for the needy to county taxpayers, while providing counties virtually no control over eligibility for services and benefit levels; and

WHEREAS, the Safety Net funding shift also builds upon recent trends where the State has leveraged significant savings from maximizing available federal resources largely for state financial plan purposes only, at the expense of local property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the net effect of this state practice forced local property taxes to be higher than they should because available savings are being spent by the state rather than being used to lower the cost of state mandates that can provide direct relief to local property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of the states do not have Safety net programs and New York is one of only 11 states that provide benefits to childless adults that do not have some disability; and

WHEREAS, most other states do not require counties to fund such a large share of public assistance costs; and

WHEREAS, counties in New York are required to finance the vast majority of Safety net costs, putting in twice as much funding as the State; and

WHEREAS, for the first half of 2015, Yates County Safety Net costs have increased by over fifteen percent per month over the prior year; and

WHEREAS, counties believe that the rising cost of providing shelter assistance to recipients is a major contribution to this increase; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of State funding support for Safety Net Assistance is part of a larger trend where the State has reduced its fiscal commitment for nearly every public assistance program including child welfare, adoption subsidies, food stamp administration, Safety Net, child support enforcement, juvenile justice and programs designed to help recently released state incarcerated offenders returning to the community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Yates County calls on the State to gradually restore

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the historic 50/50 state/county cost sharing for the Safety net program over a five year period, starting with an increase in county reimbursement for shelter assistance in order to help lower the local property tax burden for homeowners and small businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the sixty-two counties of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions.