

ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OCTOBER 2023

MONTHLY REPORT

DIRECTOR - LINDA BEERS, MPH



Chronic Disease

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

Essex County has lower breast cancer screening rates than NYS as a whole. The rates of late stage breast cancer cases and breast cancer deaths are also higher in Essex County. The Essex County Health Department is partnering to promote two *Women's Health Screening Events* offered for FREE through the Northeastern NY Cancer Services Program and UVM Health Network Elizabethtown Community Hospital. The events will provide free PAPs, breast exams and mammograms. We have an advertisement encouraging women to get screened running for the month of October in the Sun Community News in both print and online. Additionally, the Essex County Health Department has planned a "*Sock it to breast cancer*" campaign. Look for our pink socks throughout the county!



Family Health

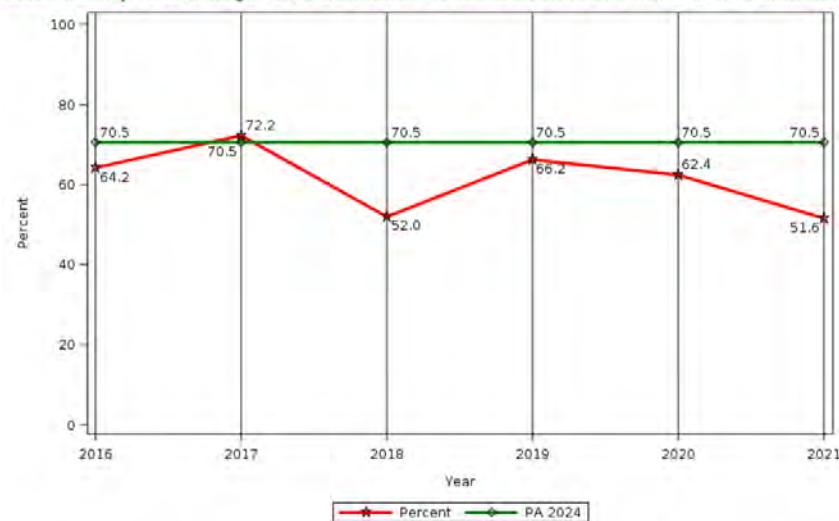
Essex County Health Department has spent every Friday in September on 'tour' in the mobile unit promoting our new *Baby Steps to Bright Futures Universal Home Visiting Program* and enhanced *Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs Program*. Popular locations where locals often frequent in Ticonderoga, Elizabethtown, Keeseville, Lake Placid, and Port Henry were chosen to distribute information on child and family safety and ensure access to immunizations with our friendly nursing staff.



Why did we have 2 nurses on this September tour promoting vaccine uptake? Our most recent immunization rate data for 2-3 year olds in Essex County reveal that we have some work to do following the pandemic, with rates dropping to their lowest level in at least six years – well below the NYS Prevention Agenda Target, and even below the New York State rate.

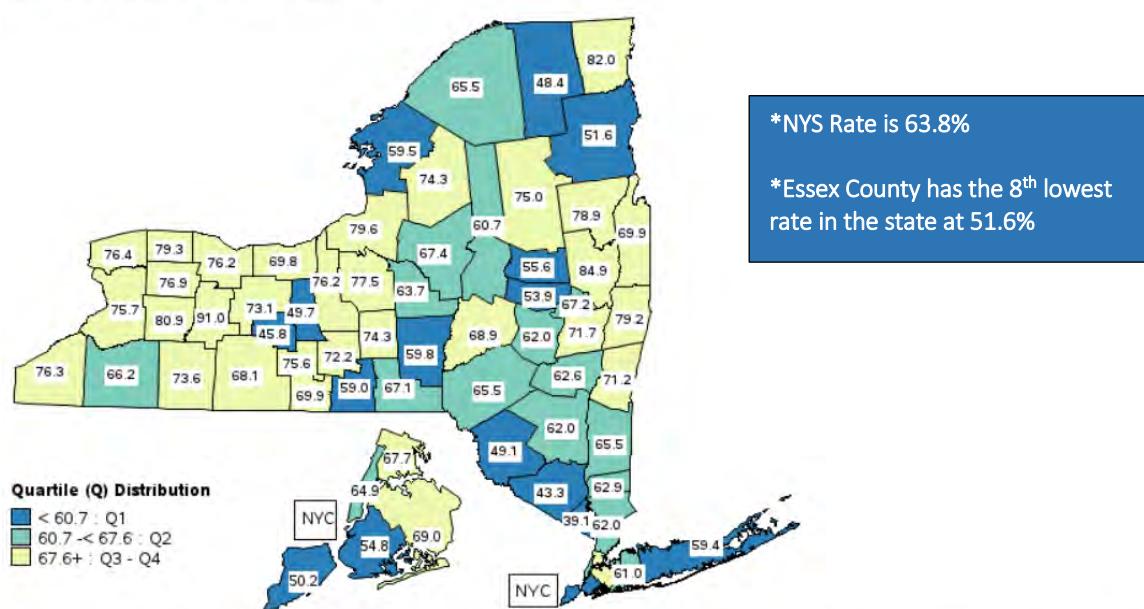
Access to health care and vaccine hesitancy might be contributing to this decline, so providing a friendly, knowledgeable clinician along with an immediate opportunity for vaccine uptake is one evidence-based strategy for increasing rates. We have also hosted several school-located clinics, offered vaccines at community events and by appointment at our Elizabethtown office. Nurses also review infant and childhood immunizations schedules during Baby Steps to Bright Futures visits to invite parent questions about vaccines and provide education about the importance of keeping current childhood immunizations.

Essex County - Percentage of 24-35-month old children with the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 immunization series



Percentage of 24-35-month old children with the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 immunization series, 2021

Prevention Agenda 2024 Objective: 70.5



Data Source: New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) and Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR), data as of October 2022

WHY YOU SHOULD REFER TO



This Essex County WIC kid is getting to plant kale at our Craigardan Farm WIC n' Pick Event!

OUR STAFF

Krista Berger
Essex County WIC Coordinator

Michelle Koenig
Administrative Support

Emily French
Nutritionist
Certified Lactation Consultant
Car Seat Technician

Cecile MacFarlane
Nutritionist
Registered Dietitian

Corey Murphy
Registered Nurse
Certified Lactation Consultant

OUR SERVICES

- **Food Packages**-We provide an EBT card for benefits that can be used for formula, whole grains, fruits & veggies, eggs, peanut butter, and more!
- **Nutrition Education and Counseling**-We work with families from pregnancy to age 5 to ensure quality nutrition for both low and high risk participants.
- **Breastfeeding Support**- Lactation consultants are on staff to promote and maintain breastfeeding. We offer pumps and supplies for working mom's. Essex County WIC also has a weekly virtual breastfeeding support group.
- **Health Monitoring**- We track the growth of our participants, check iron status, complete nutrition assessments, address substance use, and track developmental milestones in order to perform participant centered counseling.
- **Referrals**- We make referrals to pediatricians, dentists, Head Start, Early Intervention, and other services.
- **Free Veggies**- Essex County WIC receives a weekly supply of local vegetables from Juniper Hill Farm to distribute to our participants!
- **Events**-Essex County WIC has events to bring families together and promote healthy nutrition, including our WIC n' Pick events over summer, which give families a chance to visit local farms and pick produce.
- **Support for Families**- We connect families to resources that help them thrive including-- Thanksgiving meals, Christmas gifts, car seats, coats, diapers, clothes, food prep tools, books, and other necessary supplies.

WHO QUALIFIES?

- Pregnant women, postpartum women, infants and children ages 0-5.
- SNAP, Medicaid, and TNAF recipients.
- We work with moms, dads, foster parents, grandparents, and legal guardians.

A recent study from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found declines in severe obesity among children enrolled in WIC and an increase in intake of fiber, low-fat dairy, and fruit.

Children who participate in WIC for a full year are about 1.7 times more likely to have two or more dental visits per year than those children who do not participate in WIC.

A mother's participation in WIC was associated with an increased probability of having at least four well-child visits during baby's first year.

Children participating in WIC have immunization rates similar to more affluent children and significantly higher than low-income children who never participated in WIC.

ESSEX COUNTY WIC
132 WATER ST.
ELIZABETHTOWN, NY 12932
PHONE: (518) 873-3560 FAX: (518) 873-3549
EWIC@ESSEXCOUNTINY.GOV



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WIC-n-Pick had 16 families come to DaCy Meadow to hear children's book author, Kate Messner, read her book, Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt.

WIC finishes the season with an interactive farm brunch at DaCy Meadow Farm on November 2 at noon. Kevin McCarthy from Paul Smith's College will bring students to work with WIC families to prepare and serve local foods. All families who attended sessions are welcome to RSVP to attend.

If you would like to join us, please contact WIC at 518-873-3560.

WIC will begin to distribute this flyer to healthcare providers and other community agencies.

As shown by the statistics, WIC can make a huge impact on the health of the families in Essex County.

Please share this with anyone you may know who could use WIC or works with families.

3 | Page

Children's Services

Early Intervention:

The program currently has 28 children enrolled due to the transition of 19 children to the preschool program at the end of August.

There is a waitlist for services:

- Physical Therapy (3),
- Speech (5)
- Special Instruction (2) and
- Occupational Therapy (2).

The Coordinator of the Program has been in contact with a speech therapist and three local Physical therapists who are interested in providing services, helping them seek their approval or join an agency.

Preschool:

There are 74 children enrolled in the Preschool program and 21 in the referral process.

We raised our preschool provider reimbursement rates in September \$2 a half hour to support the recruitment & retention of providers.

Without having a center-based option in Essex County since Children's Development group closed in June 2022, there are a large number of children accessing services in the Pre-K and Head Start programs. This means that they need more support and often times a one on one aide to support them in this environment.

Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN):

Hillary Perkett joined the Essex County Health Department in as a full time employee working in Family Health programs and services. She is dedicating no less than 50% effort to the CYSHCN Program.

In this role she will be helping to identify children and youth with special health care needs and helping their families with resources and education to support them.

She has been participating in our public outreach events to increase the program's reach. The flyer to the right is an example of outreach efforts to increase the program's visibility.



Communicable Disease – 2023 (to date) By the Numbers

Rabies



11 cases confirmed in wildlife

1 in **September** (most recent) - Woodchuck - Town of Moriah (Port Henry)

55 – number of Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis authorizations to date

1 Rabies Clinic Remaining - October 4 from 6-8pm at the Schroon Lake Fire Department

Flu & Cold Season



COVID cases are continuing to increase now that school is back in session and more folks are gathering indoors.

101 Confirmed Cases (PCR tests) in September and **59** positive home tests reported

Compared to the previous month (August): **61** confirmed cases and **7** positive home tests reported

What's New for 2023 - 2024 COVID Vaccine?

The 2023–2024 updated COVID-19 vaccines will be better at fighting currently circulating variants and restore protection against severe COVID-19 that may have decreased over time.

COVID vaccines are now available commercially. This means the United States Government is no longer distributing COVID-19 vaccines free of charge. Rather, they are available for purchase directly from manufacturers or distributors.

**This means that whoever gives you the COVID vaccine will bill your insurance company - whether public (such as Medicare or Medicaid) or private (such as Excellus, Empire, CDPHO, and others).

**If you don't have any insurance or an insurance that covers the vaccine or other barrier to billing, there are programs to ensure access to the COVID vaccine. This includes the Vaccine for Children Program (for those 6 months - 18 years of age) and the Bridge Access program for those ages 18+.

ECHD has worked to assess the access to and availability of the newest COVID vaccine. We reached out to all adult care facilities in nursing homes in Essex County, as well as hospitals and health care centers to determine their plans for offering COVID vaccine to their patients. COVID vaccines are widely available at pharmacies, Health Centers, Clinics and local health departments (like us!) across the state.

[Find a vaccine appointment near you](https://www.vaccines.gov/search/) by clicking <https://www.vaccines.gov/search/>

* Our Department serves as a safety net provider. This means, if you can't get an appointment at your regular healthcare provider, health center or local pharmacy, we can serve you.

**We expect to have appointments available starting [November 1, 2023](#).

**Appointments will be available at ECHD under the OUR CLINICS page on our website once open.

We are offering **moderna COVID vaccine only.

Tick-borne Disease

327 Lyme disease cases



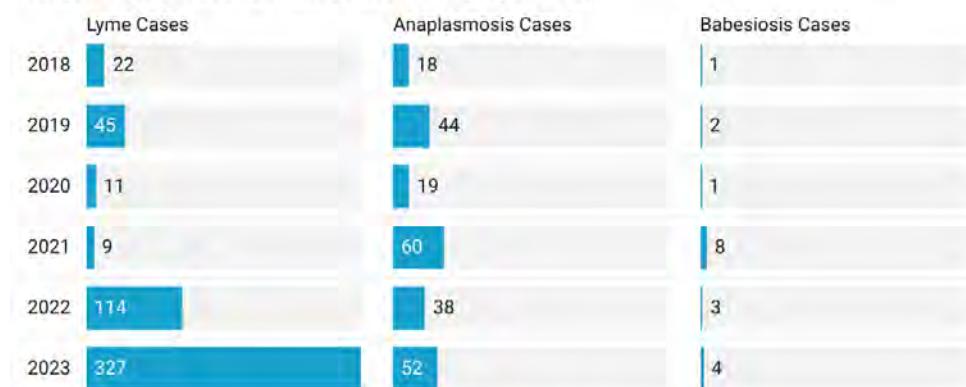
51 confirmed Anaplasmosis cases

4 confirmed Babesiosis cases

1 probable Powassan virus - awaiting confirmation testing results from Wadsworth Laboratory

Essex County Tick-borne Disease Data 2018-2023

Three most common tick-borne diseases in Essex County.



Data retrieved from the NYS Communicable Disease Electronic Surveillance System

Chart: ECHD • Source: NYSDOH HCS - CDESS • Created with Datawrapper

ECHD Outreach Extravaganza



Recent & Upcoming Events

ECHD staff have been mobile all summer and fall with our most recent outreach events at:

- September Family Health Fridays – 5 Fridays in various towns throughout the county
- 9/8 – Little Feeders Circle of Support in Elizabethtown
- 9/9 – Festival of Colors in Wilmington
- 9/12 – Ticonderoga Mill Employee Wellness Fair
- 9/13 – Hunters Health Screening in Elizabethtown
- 9/14 – Hunters Health Screening in Ticonderoga
- 9/23 – Adirondack Harvest Festival in Westport
- 9/25 – Little Feeders Circle of Support in Ticonderoga
- 10/1 – Schroon Lake Distance Festival
- 10/4 – Rabies Clinic in Schroon Lake

Home Health

National Physical Therapy Month is in October dedicated to spreading awareness of the benefits of physical therapy. Essex County Certified Home Health Agency has three physical therapists and one physical therapy assistant. Our physical therapists treat a variety of conditions to patients confined to their home.

We also have one Occupational Therapist who works in conjunction with the physical therapy staff to improve a patient's ability to perform self-care. The physical and occupational therapy staff treat patient's following surgery for joint replacement, debility following a hospital stay, arthritis, back pain, after care for a stroke, pulmonary disease, and Parkinson's disease just to name a few. LSVT BIG is a program in place to improve safe and mobility for patients with Parkinson's disease. Our speech therapist is trained in LSVT LOUD as many people with Parkinson's disease have swallowing or speech disorders.

LSVT BIG is an exercise program while LSVT LOUD is a speech treatment. Both programs were developed and scientifically researched over the past 20 years and shown to slow the progression of Parkinson's disease. Therapists must successfully complete a LSVT BIG or LOUD training and certification course to be able to perform this program. Both LSVT BIG and LOUD programs have improved the quality of life for people suffering from Parkinson's disease in Essex County for the past 7 years.

The most common condition the therapists treat are providing assessment, evaluation and treatment following a joint replacement of the knee or hip. When patients initially return home following surgery, they need training to move safely to prevent falls and injury, especially if they have a new walker or crutches. Home assessment allows the patients to setup their home to reduce risk of trips, slips and falls. An established home exercise program helps patients increase muscle strength and balance.

Patients are discharge from the home care program when they reach their maximum. Some patients will go on to attend outpatient therapy services. Unfortunately, when the weather turns cold and snowy there is greater risk of falls for patients. This is when homecare can send a therapist in to provide services at home to minimize the risk for weather related falls and injury. The therapist will recommend YakTrax for the shoes or boots to prevent slips on ice. They may advise patients to get a pronged attachment to their cane to grip the varying terrain they may encounter while outside their home.

Remember: Therapy is Medicine. If you know someone suffering you may want to refer them to a therapist. You can say to them "you seem to be suffering a lot and therapy might be worth a shot, it's up to you, there is no guarantee but the only way to find out is by trying." Happy Physical Therapy Month!



Essex County Committee Form Miscellaneous Resolution Request

Department: Public Health

Committee: Human Service

Date: 9/18/2023

Submitted By: Linda L. Beers

Signature: _____.

Nature of Request: Resolution adopting and approving the revised policies and Procedures and quarterly reports for the Home Health Services and approved by the Professional Advisory Council (PAC) and Dr. M J Celotti at the 9/12/2023 PAC meeting.

Reason for Request: Update Policy and Procedures and establish quarterly reports

Attach Text of any special provision to be included in finale resolution

Budget Impact:

A. Will Resolution impact current budget and/or future budgets: Yes No

Explain: _____

B. Is appropriation from contingent account required? Yes No

If "Yes" amount: _____ Transferred to What Account# : _____

C. If a Budget transfer is required, please complete the following:

From Account #: _____ which has a current balance of: _____

To Account #: _____ which has a current balance of: _____

Transfer amount: _____

D. Were funds originally budgeted for this item or purpose? Yes No

If "Yes" amount: _____ Account #: _____

E. Funds or Costs to be paid from: Account#: _____

Current Account Balance: _____ Balance after Expenditure: _____

F. Is there any State and/or Federal reimbursement? Yes No

If "Yes" amount: _____ Program: _____

(To be completed by the County Manager when required)

County Manager Action:

County Manager Approval: Yes No Signature: _____

Budget Amendment Request

Page 2

(To be completed by the Clerk of the Board)

Board Action:

Action Required: Yes No

Record of Committee Action:

Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
Public Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Economic Devel.	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
Dept. of Public Works	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Personnel	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
Finance, Tax Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected

Ways & Means Approval: Yes No

Record of Board Action:

Date of Board Action: _____ Resolution #: _____

Vote Type: Majority Two Thirds Three Quarters:

Roll Call Vote: Yes No

Vote Results: For: _____ Against: _____ Absent: _____ Abstain: _____



Essex County Committee Form Miscellaneous Resolution Request

Department: Public Health

Committee: Human Service

Date: 9/18/2023

Submitted By: Linda L. Beers

Signature: _____.

Nature of Request: Resolution adopting and approving the revised policies and Procedures and quarterly reports for the The Essex county Health Department and approved by the Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) and Dr. M J Celotti at the 9/12/2023 PHAC meeting.

Reason for Request: Update Policy and Procedures and establish quarterly reports

Attach Text of any special provision to be included in finale resolution

Budget Impact:

A. Will Resolution impact current budget and/or future budgets: Yes No

Explain: _____

B. Is appropriation from contingent account required? Yes No

If "Yes" amount: _____ Transferred to What Account# : _____

C. If a Budget transfer is required, please complete the following:

From Account #: _____ which has a current balance of: _____

To Account #: _____ which has a current balance of: _____

Transfer amount: _____

D. Were funds originally budgeted for this item or purpose? Yes No

If "Yes" amount: _____ Account #: _____

E. Funds or Costs to be paid from: Account#: _____

Current Account Balance: _____ Balance after Expenditure: _____

F. Is there any State and/or Federal reimbursement? Yes No

If "Yes" amount: _____ Program: _____

(To be completed by the County Manager when required)

County Manager Action:

County Manager Approval: Yes No Signature: _____

Budget Amendment Request

Page 2

(To be completed by the Clerk of the Board)

Board Action:

Action Required: Yes No

Record of Committee Action:

Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
Public Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Economic Devel.	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
Dept. of Public Works	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Personnel	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
Finance, Tax Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected

Ways & Means Approval: Yes No

Record of Board Action:

Date of Board Action: _____ Resolution #: _____

Vote Type: Majority Two Thirds Three Quarters:

Roll Call Vote: Yes No

Vote Results: For: _____ Against: _____ Absent: _____ Abstain: _____

REVIEW AND SIGN

Essex County Public Health Department
Medical Director Policy/Procedure Review
September 12, 2023 PAC/PHAC

I, Michael Celotti, DO, Medical Director, have reviewed the following Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA) and Agency Wide Policies and/or Procedures for the following:

[C&CHHA]	Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN) Form
[NC&CHAA]	Billing Procedure
[C&CHAA]	Clinical Records
[C&CHAA]	Corrections to OASIS
[NC&CHAA]	COVID 19
[NC&CHAA]	Credit Balance Report
[NC&CHAA]	Criminal history background check
[C&CHHA]	Health commerce system (HCS)
[NC&CHHA]	Major change in condition
[C&CHHA]	Mobile computer use
[NC&CHHA]	Palliative care
[NC&CHAA]	Patient assessment and plan of care
[C&CHHA]	Patient discharge
[NC&CHHA]	Patient rights and responsibilities
[NC&CHHA]	Physical therapist job description
[C&CHHA]	Quality Assurance and performance improvement
[NC&CHHA]	Registered professional nurse description
[NC&CHHA]	Skilled nursing competency
[C&CHHA]	Transfer agreement

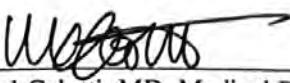
[R=Revised; N=New; D=Deleted; NC=No change; A- Agency Wide; Certified Home Health Agency-CHHA]; * = found on policy manager <http://www.co.essex.ny.us/downloads/Essex%20County%20Policy%20Manual%202005.pdf>

Recommendations:

No changes required.

Recommended revision(s):

Linda Beers, Public Health Director, or her designee, will present my recommendations to the Essex County Board of Supervisor's Human Services Committee.


Michael Celotti, MD, Medical Director

09.11.23

date



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH- Linda Beers, MPH
DIRECTOR OF PATIENT SERVICES-Jennifer Newberry, BSN

REVIEW AND SIGN

Essex County Health Department Home Health Unit

Medical Director Quality Assurance Review

For September 12, 2023 PAC Meeting

I, Michael Celotti, MD, Medical Director, have read the following CHHA records/reports for the Chart Audits and Peer Reviews for the 2nd Quarter 2023:

Records/Reports Reviewed: 214 records reviewed

Comprehensive chart audits reviewed: 25 charts

Review of Therapy and Nursing Documentation: 493 records reviewed

Home Health Aide Clinical Record Audits: 161 records reviewed

Investigation of Potentially Avoidable Events: 7 charts reviewed

Based ~~on~~ my review I make the following recommendations:

No specific action required

Actions Required for QA Review

Linda Beers, Public Health Director, or her designee, will present my recommendations to the Essex County Board of Supervisor's Human Services Committee

Michael Celotti

09.11.23

Michael Celotti, MD, Medical Director

date



Essex County Committee Form **Miscellaneous Resolution Request**

Department:

Committee:

Date:

Submitted By:

Nature of and Reason for Request:

ATTACH TEXT OF ANY SPECIAL PROVISIONS TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE FINAL RESOLUTION
Additional language can be submitted as an email attachment, or physically attached to this request.

Budget Impact:

A. Will Resolution impact current budget and/or future budgets: Yes No

Explain:

B. Is appropriation from contingent account required? Yes No

If "Yes" amount: Transferred to What Account #:

C. If a Budget transfer is required, please complete the following:

From Account #: which has a current balance of:

To Account #: which has a current balance of:

Transfer amount:

D. Were funds originally budgeted for this item or purpose? Yes No

If "Yes" amount: Account #:

E. Funds or Costs to be paid from: Account #:

Current Account Balance: Balance after Expenditure:

F. Is there any State and/or Federal reimbursement? Yes No

If "Yes" amount: Program:

CERTIFICATION BY SIGNATURE THAT THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE.

Name:

Signature: _____

Title:

Date:
