



Erie Co. Fiscal Stability Authority

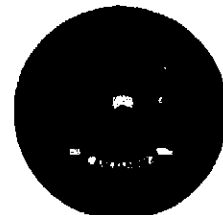
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BUDGET AND FINANICAL PLAN

2016-2019



Erie Co. Fiscal Stability Authority



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Certification

After review and inquiry, the ECFSA 2016 annual budget and financial plan presented herein is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, based on reasonable assumptions and methods of estimation with compliance to the applicable regulations.

Gordon M. Panek

9/30/2015

Preparer

Financial Analyst

Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority

Kenneth J. Vetter

Executive Director

Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority



ERIE COUNTY FISCAL STABILITY AUTHORITY

2016-2019

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PLAN



ERIE COUNTY FISCAL STABILITY AUTHORITY



Directors

James M Sampson
Chairman

Catherine Creighton
Peter Marlette
Lynn Stievater
Craig Speers
Brian Lipke

Staff

Kenneth J. Vetter
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ORGANIZATION

The Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority (the Authority) is as a corporate governmental agency and instrumentality of the State of New York (the State) constituting a public benefit corporation. Although legally separate and independent of Erie County (the County), the Authority is incorporated into the financial statements of the County as a blended component unit. The Authority was created on July 12, 2005 by Chapter 182 of the Laws of 2005 (the Act), as amended by Chapter 183 of the Laws of 2005, to monitor and oversee the finances of the County as lack of a balanced budget in the County was determined to be a matter of overriding State concern. The Act declared the County to be in a severe fiscal crisis that could not be resolved absent assistance from the State. Agencies and departments to be covered by the Authority's activities include all Erie County Departments, Erie Community College, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries and Erie County Sewer Districts.

The business of the Authority is carried out by the Authority's Board of Directors at public meetings, which are required to be held not less than quarterly during a control period and not less than annually during an advisory period. Board meetings are typically being held when the County submits its annual budget and financial plan, upon requests for the authority to issue debt on the County's behalf, awarding or repurposing of state efficiency grants and to conduct Authority administrative matters. No action may be taken by the Authority without a favorable vote of at least four directors. The Authority is to be governed by seven directors, each appointed by the Governor including one each appointed on the written recommendation of the Temporary President of the State Senate, the Speaker of the State Assembly and the State Comptroller. The Governor designates a chair and vice chair form among the directors. One director appointed by the Governor and the directors appointed on the recommendation of the Temporary President of the State Senate, the Speaker of the State Assembly and the State Comptroller must be residents of Erie County. All directors of the Authority serve without salary.

In its oversight capacity, the Authority is vested with advisory powers to review County financial plans submitted to it and make recommendations, or if necessary, adverse findings thereon. Annually, the Authority is required to review and approve or disapprove a budget and four-year financial plan submitted by the County, which details expenditures, revenues and gap closing measures. The Authority may impose a control period upon making one of several statutory findings concerning the County's financial position and, if necessary, develop financial plans on behalf of the County if the County is unwilling or unable to take the required steps toward fiscal stability. The Authority is also empowered to make appropriated State aid available as it determines in the form of efficiency grants and to comment on proposed borrowings by the County. The Authority may issue bonds or other obligations on behalf of the County if it requests that the Authority do so in order to achieve budgetary savings through debt restructuring, deficit financings or by financing short-term cash flow or capital needs.

Revenues of the Authority consist of sales tax revenue, defined as net collections from sales and compensating use taxes, penalties and interest authorized by the State and imposed by the County on the sale and use of tangible personal property and services in the County, as well as investment earnings on funds deposited in Authority bank accounts. Sales tax revenues collected by the State Comptroller for transfer to the Authority are not subject to appropriation by the State or County. Revenues of the Authority that are not required to pay operating expenses and other costs of the Authority are payable to the County as frequently as practicable.



BUDGET PROCESS

Proposed Budget and Financial Plan

The Authority's proposed budget and financial plan are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America on a modified accrual basis, but also include adjustments for cash basis accounting. Comparative amounts for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 were derived from the Authority's audited financial statements, copies of which were previously delivered to the Board and approved by resolution #15-02 on April 23, 2015. Amounts budgeted for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015 and forecasts included in the financial plan have been developed using assumptions and methods of estimation disclosed in budget and financial plan notes and sections herein. Working papers that document the reasonable assumptions and methods of estimation, consistent with prudent budgetary practices, have been prepared contemporaneously with the plan and will be maintained by the Authority.

The proposed budget and financial plan is submitted to the Authority's Board for review no later than 90 days prior to the commencement of its next fiscal year along with a certification by the Authority's Executive Director attesting to the reasonableness of assumptions and methods of estimation used to prepare the budget and financial plan. At the same time, the proposed budget and financial plan with certification are submitted to the Governor, Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Finance Committee, and Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. The proposed budget and financial plan is posted on the Authority's website and made available to the public for 45 days, at least 30 of which must be prior to approval by the Board.

Approved Budget and Financial Plan

Authority staff provide the Executive Director & Board with quarterly updates on actual revenues and expenses compared to annual budget targets. No later than 90 days after the close of each fiscal year, Authority staff report publicly on the prior year's actual versus budgeted results. Should any situation arise that has the potential to have a material, adverse affect on the approved budget and financial plan, Authority staff are required to notify the State Comptroller in writing of the situation.

Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority
 Annual Budget and Multi-Year Financial Plan - 2016-2019
 Modified Accrual Basis of Accounting with Adjustments for the Cash Basis
 Amounts in Dollars

General Fund							
Fiscal Year End	December 31, 2014 (Actual)	December 31, 2015 (Adopted Budget)	December 31, 2015 (Projection)	December 31, 2016 (Budget)	December 31, 2017 (Forecast)	December 31, 2018 (Forecast)	December 31, 2019 (Forecast)
Receipts/Revenues:							
State Sales Taxes Net	\$ 367,091,823	\$ 386,885,831	\$ 380,238,136	\$ 399,626,308	\$ 415,722,131	\$ 437,434,149	\$ 452,670,171
State Sales Tax set-asides for Bonds	61,000,582	58,985,548	58,985,548	58,659,509	55,167,878	46,406,705	44,477,710
State Sales tax retained by the Authority	480,000	513,844	491,285	522,733	535,776	549,139	562,838
State Sales Tax Interest Distribution retained by Authority	18,239	23,658	17,513	24,317	24,985	25,672	26,378
State Efficiency Grants	972,221	557,046	557,046	-	-	-	-
Interest received on Notes with County	1,015,360	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premiums received on RAN Issuance	1,032,937	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Interest Income	100	450	450	450	450	450	450
Total Revenues	\$ 421,611,263	\$ 446,966,377	\$ 440,289,978	\$ 458,833,317	\$ 471,451,220	\$ 484,416,116	\$ 497,737,547
Disbursements/Expenditures:							
General & Administrative							
Salaries, Benefits and Payroll Taxes	\$ 420,385	\$ 439,103	\$ 432,693	\$ 444,800	\$ 454,862	\$ 464,862	\$ 475,416
Professional Fees	28,740	48,850	27,245	52,700	56,550	60,400	64,250
Office Related Expenses	37,943	50,000	40,139	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
General & Administrative Subtotal	487,068	537,953	500,077	547,500	561,212	575,262	589,666
Distributions to Erie County							
State Sales Taxes	\$ 367,091,823	\$ 386,885,831	\$ 380,238,136	\$ 399,626,308	\$ 415,722,131	\$ 437,434,149	\$ 452,670,171
Debt Service Set Asides	61,000,582	58,985,548	58,985,548	58,659,509	55,167,878	46,406,705	44,477,710
Efficiency Grants	972,221	557,046	557,046	-	-	-	-
Accrued Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ECFSA excess Operations Account Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Distributions to Erie County Subtotal	419,064,626	446,428,425	439,780,729	458,285,817	470,890,009	483,840,855	497,147,881
Debt Service							
Principal Pymts on RANS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest Pymt on RANS	1,015,360	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Subtotal	1,015,360	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenditures							
Discount on RAN's purchased	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RAN issue costs	218,311	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Expenditures	218,311	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Disbursements/Expenditures	\$ 420,785,365	\$ 446,966,377	\$ 440,280,806	\$ 458,833,317	\$ 471,451,220	\$ 484,416,116	\$ 497,737,547
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over expenditures	825,897	-	9,172	0	0	(0)	(0)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)							
Inter-fund Transfer In	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inter-fund Transfer Out	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from Issuance of RANs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premiums on RANS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchases of RAN Notes from Erie County	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Issuance Costs on RANS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ 825,897	\$ -	\$ 9,172	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ (0)	\$ (0)
Fund Balance - beginning of year	\$ 19,990	\$ 845,887	\$ 845,887	\$ 855,059	\$ 855,059	\$ 855,059	\$ 855,059
Fund Balance - end of year	\$ 845,887	\$ 845,887	\$ 855,059	\$ 855,059	\$ 855,059	\$ 855,059	\$ 855,059

1. Sales tax receipts in fiscal years 2016 through 2019 are based on County forecasts.
 2. Revenues of ECFSA that are not required to pay operating expenses and other costs of the ECFSA are distributed to the County when practicable.



PRINCIPAL BUDGETARY ASSUMPTIONS AND ASSESSMENT OF BUDGETARY RISKS

The budget and financial plan includes estimates developed using assumptions as disclosed in notes to the plan. Estimates are subject to risk due to assumptions made about future scenarios. Sales tax receipt estimates, which constitute the majority of the Authority's budgeted and forecasted revenue, are based on amounts set forth in the County's 2016-2019 Four Year Financial Plan. County sales tax receipts are forecast to grow by 2.75 percent in 2016 through 2019. Actual Sales tax receipt growth for 2014 was 2.90% and currently trending at 1.11% for 2015 per ECFSA actual receipts. Sales tax receipts are sensitive to the fluctuations in economic activity in the County, which has gone through numerous cycles of expansion and contraction over the years.

Interest income is earned by the Authority on sales tax receipts held by the New York State Comptroller's Office and on cash held by the Authority in interest bearing accounts. The amount of interest income the Authority earns on an annual basis is sensitive to total sales tax receipts and bank account balances. In addition, the amount of interest income earned by the Authority is also subject to changes in interest rates.

The Authority is charged with reviewing and determining whether the County's budget and financial plans are in balance, reasonable and doable, approving State-funded efficiency grants as appropriate and approving County bond sales or selling Authority bonds on behalf of the County. The Authority has set a goal of meeting these requirements in an efficient manner with minimal cost to taxpayers. In order to do so the Authority may incur, from time to time, additional professional fees and may hire additional staff. The Authority has prudently budgeted for these potential demands in order to minimize budgetary risks. Also, the Authority's budget and financial plan risks are mitigated by the magnitude by which sales tax receipts exceed operating expenditures.



RECONCILIATION OF CHANGES

The following is a reconciliation of changes from the previously approved 2015 budget. Revisions are documented in the “2015 Projection” column in the 2016-2019 budget and financial plan above. Adjustments have been made for changes in estimates since the 2015 budget was approved.

Sales Tax Receipts – For December 31, 2015, “projected” sales tax receipts are expected to continue to be lower than budgeted due to local economic changes leading to a decline in sales tax revenues.

Distributions to Erie County – For December 31, 2015, “projected” distributions to Erie County are expected to continue to be lower than budgeted due again to economic changes leading declines in distributable sales tax receipts.

Interest Income – By December 31, 2015, the Authority is anticipating to receive \$17,513 in interest on “projected” sales tax transfers to the Authority by the Office of the New York State Comptroller, a decrease of \$6,145 from budget due to lower than expected sales tax collection cash balances held before distribution. Interest income forecasts in the 2016-2019 budget and financial plan anticipate continued interest earnings on sales tax transferred to the Authority but lower interest earnings on smaller cash balances held in interest-bearing bank accounts.

State Efficiency Grants – For December 31, 2015, Efficiency grant reimbursements from the State are expected to be fully disbursed with no remaining balances due Erie County.

Salary & Benefits Expense – For December 31, 2015, “projected” salaries & benefits are expected to be approximately \$6,410 lower than budgeted due to lower benefit costs than originally budgeted.

Professional Fees – For December 31, 2015, “projected” professional fees are expected to be approximately \$21,605 lower than budgeted due to lower legal fees.

Office Related Expenses – For of December 31, 2015, “projected” office related expenses are expected to be approximately \$9,861 lower than budgeted due to lower than expected office related expenditures.



PROJECTED PERSONAL AND NON-PERSONAL SERVICE COSTS

Personal Service Costs

As of December 31, 2015 the Authority has four employees, all of whom are full-time, exempt and funded by general revenues of the Authority. Revised, budgeted and projected annual expenses for salary, health insurance, other benefits and payroll taxes are presented below:

Personal Service Employee Expenses Detail – 2015 to 2019

Item	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Executive Director	123,860	126,337	128,864	130,156	132,108
Director of Administration	56,300	57,426	58,287	59,162	60,049
Financial Analyst / Officer	56,300	57,426	58,287	59,162	60,049
Office Manager/Executive Assistant	33,780	34,456	34,972	35,497	36,029
Other Salary Items	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
<i>Health Insurance</i>	76,235	80,534	85,077	89,878	94,952
<i>Other Benefits and Payroll Taxes</i>	85,127	81,121	82,306	83,508	84,728
Total	\$439,103	\$444,800	\$454,662	\$464,862	475,416

In addition to personal service costs for employees, the Authority contracts with outside vendors for certain professional services. The following table lists estimates of professional service fees based on current contracts and possible future expenses.

Professional Fees Expenses Detail – 2015 to 2019

Description	Contractor	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Independent Auditors	Freed Maxick CPA's	8,850	10,200	11,550	12,900	14,250
Legal & Bond Counsel	Phillips Lytle, LLP	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Financial Advisors	Capital Market Advisors	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Banking & Payroll Services	M & T Bank Paychex	12,500	15,000	17,500	20,000	22,500
Total		48,850	52,700	56,550	60,400	64,250



Non-Personal Service Costs

The Authority incurs expenses for non-personal service items. Revised, budgeted and projected annual office-related and meeting expenses are presented below:

Non-Personal Service Expense Detail – 2015 to 2019

Item	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Rent	26,500	26,500	26,500	26,500	26,500
Office Supplies	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500
Travel	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Meetings & Misc Expenses	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
Total	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000



STATEMENT OF BORROWED DEBT

The Authority is authorized to issue up to \$700 million in long-term debt excluding any cost of issuance, debt reserve fund or future refunding of bonds net of unearned bond accretion for the purpose of refinancing or restructuring outstanding Erie County debt or to fund County capital and operating needs. In addition, the Authority may undertake cash flow borrowings on behalf of the County, up to a limit of \$250 million of the aggregate outstanding at any time. The Authority is authorized to issue fixed or variable rate debt and may enter into interest rate swaps.

Since its inception, the Authority has issued short term and long term debt on behalf of the County in the form of General Obligation debt, capital projects debt, refinancing of eligible County bonds debt and issuance of a one year Revenue Anticipation Notes.

In 2015 the Authority did not issue and short term or long term debt. All previous issued Authority long term debt is serviced through its debt service fund. See supporting long term debt schedule below.

Since 2010, the Authority has issued \$469,890,000 of long term debt in the form of Notes and Serial Bonds with due dates through 2028. At December 31, 2015, \$349,040,000 remains outstanding.

Any bonds issued by the Authority are secured by a senior lien on its revenues, which consist of a share of sales and compensating use tax authorized by the State and imposed by the County and any state aid appropriated to the County by the State under the aid and incentive for municipalities program. The Authority's enabling legislation restricts changes in local laws, ordinances or resolutions imposing or relating to taxes or fees that would reduce maximum annual debt service coverage below 200 percent.

Long Term Liabilities - Serviced through the Debt Service Fund

Fiscal Year End	Original Amt	December 31, 2014	Increases	Decreases	December 31, 2015	Due in One Year
Series 2010A bond, maturing May 2023 with interest ranging from 2.0% to 5.0% over the life of the bond.	157,995,000.00	121,340,000.00	-	11,175,000.00	110,165,000.00	11,640,000.00
Series 2010B bond, maturing July 2022 with interest ranging from 2.0% to 5.0% over the life of the bond.	46,365,000.00	25,605,000.00	-	6,925,000.00	18,680,000.00	7,160,000.00
Series 2010C bond, maturing March 2020 with interest ranging from 2.25% to 5.24% over the life of the bond.	42,175,000.00	36,600,000.00	-	5,425,000.00	31,175,000.00	5,675,000.00
Series 2011A bond, maturing March 2020 with interest ranging from 2.25% to 5.24% over the life of the bond.	27,690,000.00	27,280,000.00	-	6,340,000.00	20,940,000.00	6,650,000.00
Series 2011B bond, maturing March 2020 with interest ranging from 2.25% to 5.24% over the life of the bond.	16,810,000.00	13,495,000.00	-	1,250,000.00	12,245,000.00	1,295,000.00
Series 2011C bond, maturing March 2020 with interest ranging from 2.25% to 5.24% over the life of the bond.	86,250,000.00	78,615,000.00	-	4,050,000.00	74,565,000.00	4,210,000.00
Series 2013A bond, maturing March 2024 with interest ranging from 1.25% to 5.00% over the life of the bond.	25,635,000.00	25,635,000.00	-	2,165,000.00	23,470,000.00	2,230,000.00
Series 2013B bond, maturing January 2024 with interest ranging from 2.00% to 5.00% over the life of the bond.	31,135,000.00	30,350,000.00	-	2,410,000.00	27,940,000.00	4,935,000.00
Series 2013C bond, maturing August 2023 with interest ranging from 1.63% to 5.00% over the life of the bond.	35,835,000.00	32,850,000.00	-	2,990,000.00	29,860,000.00	3,140,000.00
	\$ 469,890,000.00	\$ 391,770,000.00	\$ -	\$ 42,730,000.00	\$ 349,040,000.00	\$ 46,935,000.00

Debt Service Requirements

Year Ending December 31,	Principal	Interest	Total
2015 Paid	\$ 42,730,000.00	\$ 17,889,712.52	\$ 60,619,712.52
2016	46,935,000.00	15,963,256.00	62,898,256.00
2017	48,455,000.00	13,848,169.00	62,303,169.00
2018	45,095,000.00	11,533,850.00	56,628,850.00
2019	39,535,000.00	9,524,913.00	49,059,913.00
2020-2024	140,875,000.00	22,781,694.00	163,656,694.00
2025-2028	28,145,000.00	3,604,000.00	31,749,000.00
	\$ 391,770,000.00	\$ 95,145,594.52	\$ 486,915,594.52
2010-2014 Paid	78,120,000.00	69,662,430.00	147,782,430.00
Cumulative Debt Schedule Total	\$ 469,890,000.00	\$ 164,808,024.52	\$ 634,698,024.52

Interest Pymts

2015	2015
Interest 2010a	5,430,337.50
Interest 2010b	1,192,618.76
Interest 2010c	1,563,387.50
Interest 2011a	1,153,500.00
Interest 2011b	631,050.00
Interest 2011c	3,890,250.00
Interest 2013a	1,017,962.50
Interest 2013b	1,383,800.00
Interest 2013c	1,626,806.26
	17,889,712.52

Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority
 Annual Budget and Multi-Year Financial Plan - 2016-2019
 Modified Accrual Basis of Accounting with Adjustments for the Cash Basis
 Amounts in Dollars

Debt Service Fund

Fiscal Year End	December 31, 2014 (Actual)	December 31, 2015 (Adopted Budget)	December 31, 2015 (Projection)	December 31, 2016 (Budget)	December 31, 2017 (Forecast)	December 31, 2018 (Forecast)	December 31, 2019 (Forecast)
Receipts/Revenues:							
Principal payments received on notes with County	\$ 30,900,000	\$ 42,730,000	\$ 42,730,000	\$ 46,935,000	\$ 48,455,000	\$ 45,095,000	\$ 39,535,000
Interest payments received on notes with County	19,256,546	17,889,713	17,889,713	15,963,256	13,848,169	11,533,850	9,524,913
Total Revenues	\$ 50,156,546	\$ 60,619,713	\$ 60,619,713	\$ 62,898,256	\$ 62,303,169	\$ 56,628,850	\$ 49,059,913
Disbursements/Expenditures:							
Debt Service							
Principal payments on Bonds	30,900,000	42,730,000	42,730,000	46,935,000	48,455,000	45,095,000	39,535,000
Interest payments on Bonds	19,256,546	17,889,713	17,889,713	15,963,256	13,848,169	11,533,850	9,524,913
Debt Service Subtotal	50,156,546	60,619,713	60,619,713	62,898,256	62,303,169	56,628,850	49,059,913
Total Disbursements/Expenditures	\$ 50,156,546	\$ 60,619,713	\$ 60,619,713	\$ 62,898,256	\$ 62,303,169	\$ 56,628,850	\$ 49,059,913
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over expenditures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Financing Sources (Uses)							
Inter-fund Transfer In	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inter-fund Transfer Out	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from Issuance of Bonds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premiums on Bonds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Discount on Issuance of Bonds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchases of Bonds fr Erie County	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchases of Notes from Erie County	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Issuance Costs on Bonds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fund Balance - beginning of year	\$ 15,771	\$ 15,771	\$ 15,771	\$ 15,771	\$ 15,771	\$ 15,771	\$ 15,771
Prior Period Adjustment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fund Balance - end of year	\$ 15,771	\$ 15,771	\$ 15,771	\$ 15,771	\$ 15,771	\$ 15,771	\$ 15,771