



**Tompkins County Legislature**

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building  
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 01/15/19 05:30 PM  
Department: Social Services Department  
Category: Budget  
Functional Category: Social Services

**SCHEDULED**

**RESOLUTION NO.      DOC ID: 8337**

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1                    **Adjusting Social Services' 2019 Budget for 'Code Blue'**

2                    WHEREAS, New York State mandates that local social services districts provide emergency shelter every day  
3 that wind chill temperatures reach lows at or below 32 degrees Fahrenheit to all persons who present as homeless  
4 (without regard to their eligibility for other State or Federal public assistance programs), and  
5

6                    WHEREAS, utilization of this program during December 2018 increased dramatically compared to both the  
7 previous month and to our County's experience last winter, and  
8

9                    WHEREAS, if program utilization continues at this rate, by early February the Department of Social Services  
10 will exhaust the amount appropriated for the "Code Blue" program for the entire year, and  
11

12                    WHEREAS the Department of Social Services therefore requires increased spending authority to cover current  
13 projected expenditures for the remainder of this season, and  
14

15                    WHEREAS "Code Blue" expenditures are 100% State-reimbursed, now therefore be it  
16

17                    RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the Director of Finance  
18 shall make the following adjustments to the 2019 Budget:  
19

20                    **Social Services**

21  
22                    Appropriation:                    6010.54400 Program Expense                    \$700,000  
23                    Revenue:                            6010.43610 State: Social Services Admin                    \$700,000  
24

25                    **SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**



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1  
2 In late 2015 Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order 151, mandating that Social Services districts provide emergency  
3 shelter to all homeless persons on any day that wind chill temperatures are at or below 32 degrees. The order was later  
4 made permanent through legislation.  
5  
6 There are no individual eligibility requirements for this 100% state-reimbursed program. Perhaps for that reason,  
7 utilization of the "Code Blue" program increased dramatically in many counties during the winter of 2017-2018 and,  
8 here in Tompkins County, that trend has continued during this winter to date. By the end of December we were paying  
9 for emergency shelter 88 persons a night under "Code Blue" -- nearly double last winter's average.  
10  
11 We are providing an attachment containing two tables which show our Actual expenditures in late 2018 and, based on  
12 the end-of-year utilization rates, our Projected expenditures for early 2019.