



Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

November 9, 2023

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Committee Assignment	
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To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

Subject: Acceptance of a Grant from the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services for the Offices of the Public Defender and the Conflict Defender for the Provision of Indigent Legal Services

Honorable Legislators:

I recommend that Your Honorable Body accept a grant from the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services in the amount of \$3,184,755 for the Office of the Monroe County Public Defender and the Office of the Monroe County Conflict Defender for the provision of indigent legal services for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

The Office of the Public Defender will use the funding for part or all of the salary costs equivalent to eight (8) existing full-time Assistant Public Defender positions, a paralegal, and an investigator. The Office of the Conflict Defender will use the funding for part or all of the salary costs equivalent to three (3) existing full-time Assistant Conflict Defender positions. The funding amounts for the Office of the Monroe County Public Defender (\$2,342,595) and the Office of the Monroe County Conflict Defender (\$842,160) is over a three (3) year period. This is the fourteenth year the County has received this grant. This year's funding represents the same amount as the last time the County received this grant.

The specific legislative actions required are:

1. Authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to accept a \$3,184,755 grant from, and to execute a contract and any amendments thereto with, the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services for the Office of the Monroe County Public Defender and the Office of the Monroe County Conflict Defender for the provision of indigent legal services for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.
2. Amend the proposed 2024 operating budget of the Office of the Public Defender by appropriating the sum of \$2,342,595, into general fund 9300, funds center 2601010000, Public Defender Administration.

3. Amend the proposed 2024 operating budget of the Department of Public Safety by appropriating the sum of \$842,160 into general fund 9300, funds center 2402010000, Legal Representation.
4. Authorize the County Executive to appropriate any subsequent years of the grant award in accordance with the grant terms, to reappropriate any unencumbered balances during the grant period according to the grantor requirements, to make any necessary funding modifications within the grant guidelines to meet contractual commitments, and to enter into any amendments to extend the time period of the grant.
5. Should funding of this program be modified or terminated for any reason, the County Executive is hereby authorized to terminate or modify the program and, where applicable, to terminate or abolish some or all positions funded under such program. Any termination or abolishment of positions shall be in accordance with New York State Civil Service Law and, when applicable, the terms of any labor agreement affecting such positions.

This action is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(26) ("routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment") and is not subject to further review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

This grant is 100% funded by the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services. No net County support is required in the current Monroe County budget.

I recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,


Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive