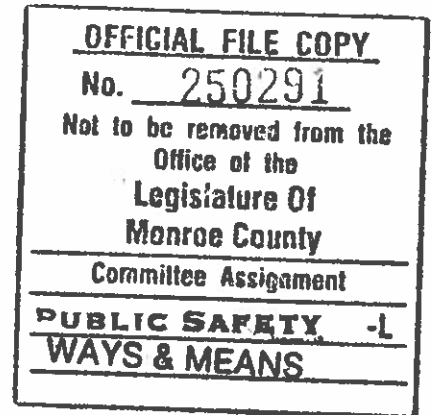


Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

September 5, 2025



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

Subject: Acceptance of an Aid to Defense Grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for the Discovery Reform Program for the Offices of the Public Defender, the Conflict Defender, and the Assigned Counsel Program

Honorable Legislators:

I recommend that Your Honorable Body accept an Aid to Defense grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$1,348,924 for the Discovery Reform Program for the provision of indigent legal services for the Offices of the Public Defender, the Conflict Defender, and the Assigned Counsel Program for the period of April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026.

This grant will provide funding assistance for defense services and expenses related to discovery implementation, including but not limited to digital evidence transmission technology, administrative support, hardware and operating software, data connectivity, development of training materials, staff training, overtime costs, and litigation readiness costs that have incurred and will incur during the award period. This is the forty-second year the County has received Aid to Defense funding. This year's Discovery Reform funding represents a decrease of \$111,196 from last year.

The specific legislative actions required are:

1. Authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to accept a \$1,348,924 Aid to Defense grant from, and to execute a contract and any amendments thereto with, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for the Discovery Reform Program for the provision of indigent legal services for the Offices of the Public Defender, Conflict Defender, and the Assigned Counsel Program for the period of April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026.
2. Amend the 2025 operating budget of the Office of the Public Defender by appropriating the sum of \$836,333, into general fund 9300, funds center 2601010000, Office of the Public Defender.

3. Amend the 2025 operating budget of the Department of Public Safety by appropriating the sum of \$269,785 into general fund 9300, funds center 2402010000, Conflict Defender.
4. Amend the 2025 operating budget of the Department of Public Safety by appropriating the sum of \$242,806 into general fund 9300, funds center 2402020000, Assigned Counsel Administration.
5. 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.
6. 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 included 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 Division of Criminal Justice 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

AJB:db