



Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

November 7, 2025

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No.	<u>250372</u>
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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 New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services for the Office of the Public Defender for the Provision of the Fifth Counsel at First Appearance Program

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 \$750,000 for the Fifth Counsel at First Appearance program in the Office of the Monroe County Public Defender for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028.

The Office of the Public Defender will use the funding for part or all of the salary costs equivalent to three (3) existing full-time Assistant Public Defender positions. This grant funding will be used to continue to provide indigent legal services at court arraignments. This is the fifth time 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 \$750,000 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 for the provision of indigent legal services for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028.
2. Amend the 2026 operating budget of the Office of the Public Defender by appropriating the sum of \$250,000, into general fund 9300; funds center 2601010000, Office of the Public Defender.
3. 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.

4. 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