STATE OF COUNTY

JUNE 11, 2025

PRESENTED BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE ADAM J. BELLO

DRYDEN THEATRE

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Monroe County Executive Adam Bello is pleased to present the 2025 State of the County - a comprehensive overview of our County's progress, priorities, and vision for the future. This report highlights key initiatives, achievements, and challenges across Monroe County departments, and showcases our commitment of service to our residents.

As we reflect on the past year, it is important to recognize the hard work and collaboration that has propelled our community forward. From public safety initatives and investments in our public health services to transformative economic development projects and improvements to our infrastructure, Monroe County continues to lead and innovate in ways that strengthen the quality of life for all of our residents.



KEEPING US SAFE

"In a changing world, innovation in public safety isn't just progress—it's protection. Every new idea is a step toward a safer, more resilient community. Through bold ideas, smart design, and forward-thinking strategies we can protect our residents, empower our law enforcement officers, and build a future where safety is not reactive, but proactive. Every breakthrough we pursue today lays the foundation for a stronger, more resilient tomorrow."

Centralized Arraignment Part Court (CAP)

A major public safety initiative in the 2025 Monroe County budget, the Centralized Arraignment Part Court

(CAP) is a countywide collaboration that will make the criminal justice system more efficient and allow police and law

enforcement officers to get back on the road sooner, improving public safety. Local stakeholders have praised the CAP Court for its potential to reduce the burden on law enforcement, minimize disruptions caused by late-night or weekend arraignments, and ensure that individuals receive timely legal counsel. Here's what they have to say:

"Centralized arraignments will enhance public safety, by creating fiscal and operational efficiencies within law enforcement agencies," said Monroe County Sheriff Todd K. Baxter.

 $"The \ Centralized \ Arraignment$

Part Court is the most recent example of how the Monroe County legal community, government, and law enforcement collaborate to streamline our

criminal justice system while ensuring it is fair and equitable for everyone involved," said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

"Establishing one central arraignment process for the entire County, instead of the current patchwork system, unquestionably makes our justice system work better for the people we serve," said Hon. William K. Taylor, Administrative Judge, 7th Judicial District.

Juvenile Enhanced Diversion Stabilization (JEDS)

Implemented in 2023 when juvenile and youth crime was at an all-time high, the JEDS program has changed the way Monroe County Probation conducts intakes with justice-involved youth. This innovative



program works to quickly make contact with a youth and their family, after an

arrest, to provide an assessment of their needs, deploy services to address those needs, and provide intensive supervision, with the goal of increasing the probability of success in diversion.

The intensive supervision period, which we refer to as "stabilization", was initially two-weeks long and was followed by a standard diversion period of probation. As a result of promising data, Monroe County has increased the stabilization period to four-weeks.

JEDS by the numbers:

84% successfully complete diversionary period, compared to 36% statewide.

3% re-offense rate for youth enrolled in JEDS, down from 30% before JEDS was established

53% decrease in vehicle thefts

in 2024 vs 2023.

Juvenile Delinquency intakes:

January - March

2023	2024	2025
244	162	151





School Bus Safety

Every day, hundreds of motorists across Monroe County illegally pass a stopped school bus while children are boarding or departing the bus. Monroe County responded by enacting a local law and initiating the School Bus Safety Program in October 2023, partnering with stop-arm enforcement provider BusPatrol to offer local school districts access to this innovative public safety program. BusPatrol installs camera systems on school buses that capture video of vehicles that illegally pass buses when the stop arms are out.

School District	Citations Issued
Greece	6,344
E. Irondequoit	2,471
Webster	2,227
Hilton	901

^{*}Statistics as of May 2025

The School Bus Safety Program is entirely violator-funded - at no additional cost to Monroe County taxpayers. The fines pay for the program and equipment, and the remaining funds come to the County to fund traffic safety concerns in participating school districts.



Uniting for Safer Streets: Monroe County Forms Groundbreaking Community Traffic Safety Team

In response to Monroe County being designated a high-risk area for traffic crashes and fatalities by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, County Executive Adam Bello announced the launch of the new Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST). This initiative, sanctioned by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, is the first of its kind in New York State. Since its launch in October 2024, the CTST has received input from over 330 residents who have shared concerns about local traffic safety. Each submission has been carefully reviewed and

prioritized based on urgency, community need, and available resources.



Monroe County Crime Lab

The Monroe County Crime Lab is a vital resource for solving gun crimes, assisting with gun-related investigations, and producing evidence for trials. The Bello made significant investments in the Crime Lab by two full-time firearm examiners and authorizing the purchase of a new high-resolution 3D imaging microscope to expedite the lab's important work. This new technology allows firearm examiners to gather more data points for comparison by using casings,

casings,
bullets, or
both - which
means they
can generate
even more
potential
matches

the firearms
unit has
made
over 100
investigative
leads

between illegal guns and ammunition used in crimes. In the first quarter of 2025, the firearms unit has made over 100 investigative leads in the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN), and has now made over 8,600 total investigative leads in the NIBIN database.

KEEPING US HEALTHY

"The public health of our community can thrive when it's guided by a data-driven approach and rooted in community trust - it's about reimagining how we reach people, how we listen, and how we build systems that leave no one behind."

Transformational Community Care Coordination Program (TC3)

Monroe County and the Finger Lakes region has experienced a significant shortage of acute care hospital beds for too long - this has often led to overcrowding of our local Emergency Departments.

To address this problem, County Executive Bello convened our local hospital systems, healthcare partners, and community organizations to design and implement the Transformational Community Care Coordination Program (TC3). This innovative solution was initially funded in part by Monroe County ARPA dollars and produced significant results by reducing capacity issues and hospital wait times. Thanks to the advocacy of County Executive Bello and regional

State Representatives, Monroe

County has received an additional \$15 million in state funding to build off the success of the initial TC3 pilot program.

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Narcan Distribution - Easy Access to Life-Saving

Medication

The opioid overdose epidemic has touched nearly every



corner of our community. To respond to this crisis, Monroe County's IMPACT Team has installed more than 600 Naloxboxes in locations across the county - in private businesses, stores, restaurants, and other public places - all equipped with this life saving medication.

IMPACT's work doesn't stop there, they've also used a datadriven approach to meet people where they are with street outreach, distributed more than 35,000 naloxone kits, and over 2,400 Deterra medical disposal bags. The goal is to save lives and give people the opportunity to choose treatment.



Call to Action Campaign

Thanks to \$243,000 in opioid settlement funds, Monroe County launched a Call to Action campaign, developed to raise awareness of naloxone availability, reduce the stigma surrounding Substance Use Disorder, combat addiction misinformation, prevent accidental overdoses, and share real stories from those impacted by Substance Use Disorder.



Monroe County Leading the Way to Protect Children from Lead Poisoning

Thanks to years of coordinated efforts by the Monroe County Department of Public Health and partners at the City of Rochester, local healthcare providers, and community groups, we've reduced elevated blood lead levels by more than 90% since the late 1990s. However, lead still remains a threat because the city of Rochester has one of the oldest housing stocks in the nation.

Monroe County is responding with action. Thanks to a \$5.7 million grant, we have launched a three-part strategy to help prevent lead exposure before it happens. This includes a new Lead Rental Registry, a Leading in Lead Prevention Pilot program that will invest up to \$40,000 per unit to eliminate lead hazards in rental homes, and additional case management, home inspections, and education for families impacted by lead.



New Veterans Service Agency and Office for the Aging Satellite Offices

Monroe County two new is home to service a growing centers to population of older adults and support our thousands of veterans proud military and older veterans. In adults. an effort to provide greater convenience, accessibility, and service, Monroe County opened two new service centers to support our veterans and older adults.

These offices, supported by Monroe County ARPA funds, are located in Greece Ridge Mall in the town of Greece and Bay Towne Plaza in the town of Webster. Staff at the service centers have kept busy, helping hundreds of local veterans and older adults access services and file claims to receive the benefits they have earned.

KEEPING OUR ECONOMY STRONG

"Monroe County is home to a diverse economic landscape, with globally known corporations operating alongside hometown entrepreneurs growing small businesses. And as much as our economy is about business, it's really about the people who power them, whether they are skilled trades workers, advanced manufacturers, or part of our growing health care workforce. Thanks to our visionary business leaders, governmental partners like COMIDA and Empire State Development, and supporting agencies including Greater Rochester Enterprise and our Chamber of Commerce, we are building a more prosperous Monroe County, where innovation thrives, businesses flourish, and every individual has the opportunity to succeed."

COMIDA Benefits Felt Throughout the County

Despite the upheaval of the global pandemic, the five years of the Bello Administration have fueled a period of historic growth: 216 COMIDA-backed projects have delivered more than \$4.3 billion in capital investment, 5,828 new jobs, and retained 6,843 jobs. Landmark

\$650 million, - from fairlife's represents the largest COMIDAsupported project in Monroe County history.

developments state-of-theart processing plant in Webster, to CooperVision, Amazon, Unither Manufacturing and American Packaging

Corporation – have redefined

Monroe County's industrial and

economic landscape.

The fairlife investment alone. at more than \$650

million, is



the largest COMIDA-supported project in Monroe County history. More than 300 highwage jobs will be created at this next-generation facility, with 70% of the construction workforce drawn from our own community. The impact of this project extends to local schools, town infrastructure, farms, and service providers, with more than \$23 million to be paid in local tax revenues during the PILOT term -

and a projected \$30 million annually in local supplier and service contracts

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Accelerating Progress – APEX

The Monroe County Finger Lakes APEX Accelerator provides counseling and opens doors to businesses interested in contracting with the federal government. The primary goals - accelerating innovation, fostering ingenuity and establishing resilient supply chains - means that Monroe County companies are uniquely well-positioned to access federal grants and markets. And it's worked - over the past five years, businesses in our region have secured nearly 20,000 government contracts worth more than \$1.1 billion.

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A Hand Up for Small Businesses

Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy, and entrepreneurs and small business owners need all the help they can get, whether trying to expand or bridging a gap. County Executive Bello's MicroAdvantage Loan program, launched in 2023, offers low interest loans, with a special rate for MWBE and Veteran-Owned businesses. In 2024 alone, 42 small businesses received nearly \$2 million in loans, which can make all the

difference in today's climate of high inflation, rising interest rates, and looming tariffs.



Developing the Workforce of the Future

Since its inception in 2022, the COMIDA

Workforce
Development
Fund has
invested
nearly \$7
million
from project
revenues

16 innovative
programs
that have
trained more
than 4,000 job
seekers.

into 16 innovative programs that have trained more than 4.000 job seekers. With a focus on sectors of the economy in particular need of skilled workers, County Executive Bello recently announced funding for the Nextcorp Embark program, which teaches the essential tools for web page coding, the ChildFirst Network to train daycare providers and provide grants for equipment purchases for in-home centers, and the RW Enhanced Recovery Program, providing short-term training and work experience to people who have been impacted by substance use disorders to work in addiction treatment settings.



Next Level STEM - MCC's Advanced Technology Center (ATC)



Employers everywhere are experiencing challenges in hiring and retaining skilled workers,

but it's particularly difficult in the fields of applied technology: automotive, HVAC, solar energy systems, and precision machining, among others. Thanks to a combination of funding from New York State, the federal government, and the County, we've broken ground on a \$69 million state-of-the-art facility on MCC's E. Henrietta Rd. campus. MCC is the only college in the nation offering associate degrees in precision optics, and it's anticipated that the training capacity of the ATC will allow 98% of the current openings in local optics manufacturing to be filled.

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Planning for the Multimodal Freight Initiative

Monroe County has a higher concentration of jobs in manufacturing per capita than both New York State and the country as a whole, even though our traditional reliance on the Big Three (Kodak, Xeros and Bausch & Lomb) has been replaced by hundreds of medium-sized and

smaller companies. As part of County Executive Bello's commitment to supporting the industries that drive economic growth, we are doing what we can to improve the infrastructure necessary to get local products to market as efficiently as possible. Planning is underway to develop a system of transportation and facilities that is collaborative and sustainable to improve the movement of goods and keep our economy moving forward.

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Pumping Up URMC

Thanks to a long history of partnership, County Executive Bello worked with the leaders of the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) on an agreement to share the cost of a 34-foot deep submersible pump station that will handle the increase in water

Thanks to a long history of partnership, County Executive Bello worked with the leaders of Rochester (URMC) on an agreement to share the cost of a 34-foot deep submersible pump station that will handle the increase in water

treatment needs that upcoming renovations to Strong Memorial Hospital will generate. URMC, the region's largest employer, is tripling the size of Strong's Emergency Department (ED) and constructing both a new patient care tower and an inpatient facility with 100 new private rooms. These renovations are good for the community, helping to reduce

bed shortages and ED overcrowding, but they will also put pressure on the County's wastewater utility infrastructure. The new pump station will handle 3.5 million gallons of wastewater and connect to existing sewer line, adding capacity that will benefit both the County and URMC for years to come.

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to nearly 1,000 senior, family, and affordable housing opportunities – which can be realized with the increase in power capacity that results from this project.



Powering Henrietta

With over 600 acres of residential, industrial and commercial development land available,

available, the town of Henrietta is an attractive location for new business and housing. But parts of the town

do not have the electrical infrastructure to support more development. County Executive Bello brought New York State, RG&E, and the business community together to develop a plan that will meet today's electrical needs, while anticipating tomorrow's demands. Bello secured funding from New York State to upgrade an electrical substation in the town, which will help unlock potentially groundbreaking projects - from advanced manufacturing and research and development companies,

IMPROVING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

"County government must ensure the safety and quality of both our natural and built environments, while investing in the amenities that make people want to live, work and visit here. Whether we are aware of it or not, we rely on our infrastructure to connect us with health and safety services, enhance our access to activities and entertainment, and improve our quality of life. As we continue to invest in and modernize our infrastructure, we are building a Monroe County that is not only more efficient and resilient, but also more healthy, equitable and prepared."

Creating a World Class Zoo Experience

The Seneca Park Zoo has long been a place where Monroe County families have spent time together, brought out-oftown visitors, and celebrated special occasions from birthday parties to school field trips. It's a shared space that adds value to living here, and this year, County Executive Bello announced plans to make it even better. Design has begun on a \$100 million project that will re-envision the front entry plaza and install a new tropical exhibit, providing an exceptional educational and entertainment experience for Monroe County residents and visitors alike.

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Home Runs at Innovative Field

The Rochester Red Wings

have called Monroe County home since 1956. Major League



Baseball recently established new criteria for minor league facilities to improve safety and enhance player development. County Executive Bello decided to do the league one better and included improvements to the fan experience, including a new videoboard and enhanced lighting, as well. Home to numerous events beyond baseball, and a cornerstone of the High Falls neighborhood, Innovative Field's \$26 million improvement project was

completed on time and on budget, ensuring the Red Wings will play in Rochester for years to come.

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Leading the Way with Phase Two of the Climate Action Plan

The effects of a warming climate are challenging our infrastructure and way of life, and reducing greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050 will mitigate some of those effects and meet the requirements of New York State's Climate

Act. We're implementing Phase One of the Action Plan. focused reducing greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050

on governmental operations, and in 2024, we completed Phase Two of the plan, working with stakeholders on community-wide action.



Restoring the Rochester Embayment

The industrialization of the Rochester region during the 19th and 20th centuries

contaminated parts of the Genesee River, Irondequoit Bay and Lake Ontario, impacting fish and wildlife



populations, and sediment and water quality. Thanks to

the work of several County departments, the state and federal governments and other restoration partners, our remediation efforts have led to removal of the Rochester Embayment from the list of Areas of Concern under the **Great Lakes Water Quality** Agreement. In particular, the development of the Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement Program, with its 35 miles of tunnels storing 175 million gallons of storm and wastewater remediation to be treated. and the efforts centralization have led to of water removal of treatment the Rochester under Monroe **Embayment** County Pure from the Waters, has nearly list of Areas eliminated of Concern sewer under the overflows and **Great Lakes** significantly



improved the

ecology of our

quality and

waterways.

Water Quality

Agreement

More Opportunities to Go Outside, Monroe!

County Executive Bello's commitment to making Monroe County Parks accessible and enjoyable for all residents resulted in several exciting developments this year. We just opened the County's first ADA-accessible canoe and boat launch in Churchville Park, partnered with New York State



and the Town
of Parma on a
new dog park,
and completed
renovations
of the historic
Dentzel Carousel

at Ontario Beach Park. Thanks to a grant from the US Forest Service, we're in the midst of planting nearly 9,000 native trees at various parks throughout our system. For

hikers, we recently added a new trail head and additional mileage at Greece Canal Park, and are renovating the Lehigh Valley Trail in



Rush this year in addition to the work recently completed on the Mendon portion. Winter parks enthusiasts will be able to take advantage of new wood-burning stoves in ten lodges throughout the system, and golfers will soon reap the benefits of

drainage improvements at the Durand Eastman Golf Course.



New Heights at the Airport

The Frederick
Douglass
Greater
Rochester
International
Airport
continues

USA Today's
Top 10
Best Small
Airports for
the second
year in a row.

to come back strong after the pandemic. We saw 10,000 additional passengers in 2024 from 2023, and added eight new destinations with several new carriers. Major capital projects have been completed, including an innovative and user-friendly parking program, and new amenities for families, including a play area in partnership with the Strong National Museum of Play, cemented our place on the USA Today's Top 10 Best Small Airports for the second year in a row.



At Work In Our Neighborhoods

Every day, Monroe County teams are in our neighborhoods, making sure our infrastructure is safe, addressing concerns, and providing solutions to problems when they arise. Responding to several towns in which residents widely support sidewalk installation, County Executive Bello and the County Legislature set aside

funding to add sidewalks to County road projects, and along with Aldrich Road in Perinton, we're looking forward to new sidewalks on West Avenue in Brockport, Paul Road in Chili, East Avenue in Clarkson, Mile Square Road in Mendon,

Tobey Road in
Pittsford, and
Gilman Road
in Riga. As we
continue to

improve our bicycle infrastructure, we've added lanes in Brighton, Henrietta, and Greece, with plans for new lanes in Irondequoit and Pittsford this year. And the crews from the Department of Transportation are busy all year, whether repairing thousands of potholes on County roads, striping or restriping almost 1500 miles of pavement, or ensuring the safety of hundreds of County roads and bridges.



Major Improvements to VanLare Water Resource Recovery Facility

In 2018, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) ordered Monroe County to make improvements to the Pure Waters VanLare facility to reduce pollutant discharges that could compromise water quality. The improvements totaled nearly \$75 million and exceeded the requirements of the order, delivering reliable and resilient infrastructure for the ratepayers of Monroe County, while reducing discharges. This project was completed in early 2025, and has resulted in both cleaner water, and Gold Compliance Awards from the New York Water Environment Association and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.



Bringing Government Closer to You

County Executive Bello knows that despite our best efforts, government can still be confusing. Where do you go to get help? How do you get there? Where do you park? That's why we've worked on bringing more County services

closer to you. The year we opened two new service centers with staff from the Office for the Aging and Veterans Services to better serve those populations, one in Greece at the Greece Ridge Mall and one in Webster at Bay Towne Plaza. Similarly, the Department of Human Services has worked with a variety of community partners to host neighborhoodbased "DHS on the Move" events, in which DHS staff work with residents one-on-one to get questions answered and paperwork processed.

Having services available closer to home can take some of the stress out of taking care of County business.



Safe Homes, Safe Neighborhoods

Housing affordability is a critical issue all over the country, and it's no different in Monroe County. From home improvement grants for qualified owners to make necessary repairs, to using American Rescue Plan dollars to acquire, rehab and re-sell homes to first-time buyers, we are working to offer the American Dream to more Monroe County families. And earlier this year, we launched the first countywide land bank, which will give us the tools to address vacant and blighted properties in the towns, allowing us to improve neighborhoods while expanding affordable housing options in the coming years.



THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the progress we're making in Monroe County.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our county employees, community partners, and the residents who make this county a place we're proud to call home.

For more information or to stay updated on new initiatives, visit: monroecounty.gov

STATE OF COUNTY