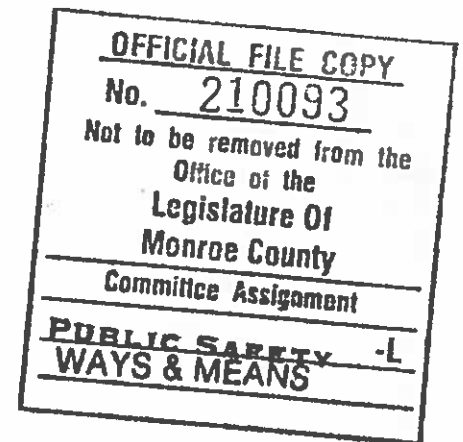




*Office of the County Executive*  
Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello  
County Executive

March 5, 2021



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

Subject: Acceptance of a Grant from the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for Improving Outcomes for Justice Involved Youth with Behavioral Health Challenges

Honorable Legislators:

I recommend that Your Honorable Body accept a grant from the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the amount of \$622,883 for Improving Outcomes for Justice Involved Youth with Behavioral Health Challenges for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2023.

Youth impacted by Mental Illness or Co-occurring Mental Illness and Substance Abuse ("MI/CMISA") have a higher risk of juvenile justice involvement and tend to remain involved longer due to lack of support and resolution of underlying diagnoses. Often, due to the significant behaviors exhibited by youth in the juvenile justice setting, mental health needs can be mistakenly attributed to poor behavioral choices and thereby go undiagnosed and result in longer involvement in the legal system. This missed opportunity to engage and connect youth with effective treatment yields high personal costs to youth and families in terms of safety, self-esteem, and stability. Youth with diagnosed and undiagnosed mental health conditions tend to penetrate more deeply into the juvenile justice system. A general approach to justice-involved youth does not always take into account the perceptual, emotional, and self-regulatory differences of youth with MI/CMISA, which can lead to feelings of frustration and failure on the part of the youth and family, which further impact emotional stability and growth. Deeper system involvement is financially costly for the community, unsuccessful for youth with MI/CMISA, achieves little in terms of community safety, and stresses an already overburdened justice system. Unresolved mental health concerns can increase recidivism in the juvenile justice system or result in other problematic behaviors.

In order to address these concerns, a Juvenile Justice Mental Health Collaboration project, Creating Alternative Pathways for Success ("CAPS"), was designed and will be administered by the Monroe County Office of Probation - Community Corrections in partnership with the Monroe County Office of Mental Health to implement a cross-system collaborative, relational approach to improve responses and outcomes for youth impacted by MI/CMISA who are involved with the Juvenile Justice system.

The overarching objective is to improve responses to youth with MI/CMISA and thereby improve safety and Juvenile Justice outcomes for those youth and surrounding communities. This project aims to reduce the reliance on out-of-home placement, reduce the reliance on detention, reduce the need for family court adjudication, increase the adjustment rate of diversion cases, reduce the rate of probation violations, reduce the rate of long-term recidivism, and utilize community-based services to improve outcomes for youth.

**The specific legislative actions required are:**

1. Authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to accept a \$622,883 grant from, and to execute a contract and any amendments thereto with, the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for Improving Outcomes for Justice Involved Youth with Behavioral Health Challenges for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2023.
2. Amend the 2021 operating budget of the Department of Public Safety, Office of Probation - Community Corrections, by appropriating the sum of \$622,883 into general fund 9300, funds center 2403020100, Juvenile Services Family Division.
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, and to make any necessary funding modifications within grant guidelines to meet contractual commitments.
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 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 requires a minimum 20% local match in each of the first and second years of the grant and a minimum 40% local match in the third year. This match funding is included in the 2021 operating budget of the Department of Public Safety, Office of Probation - Community Corrections, general fund 9300, funds center 2403020100, Juvenile Services Family Division and the Department of Human Services, general fund 9001 funds center 5116050000 and will be included in future years' budgets.

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

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