

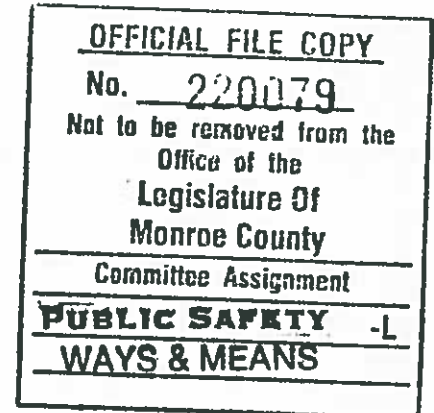


Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

February 4, 2022



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 Upstate Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction and Authorize the Creation of One New Position in the Conflict Defender's Office

Honorable Legislators:

I recommend that Your Honorable Body accept a grant from the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the Office of the Monroe County Conflict Defender for Upstate Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024 and authorize the creation of one (1) Assistant Conflict Defender Grade I, Group 18 in the Conflict Defender's Office.

This grant will allow the Office of the Monroe County Conflict Defender to hire an attorney and a social worker and to use experts in order to provide our clients who are under investigation of Child Protective Services with continuous, holistic legal representation. These staff members will assess the legal, financial, and social determinants of health needs of each client and their family members, including the needs of the subject children, to develop a strategy that will maximize the likelihood the client's children are not removed to foster care, or, if removal cannot be avoided, that the children are unified with the parent at the earliest possible time.

This grant will provide funding for all of the salary costs equivalent to one (1) Assistant Conflict Defender Grade I, Group 18. We have been notified of the funding amount for this grant as \$500,000 over a three (3) year period. This is the first time the County has received this grant.

The specific legislative actions required are:

1. Authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to accept a grant in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 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 Conflict Defender Upstate Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024.

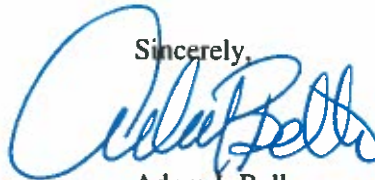
2. Amend the 2022 operating budget of the Department of Public Safety, by appropriating the sum of \$166,667 into general fund 9300, funds center 2402010000, Legal Representation.
3. Authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to create one (1) Assistant Conflict Defender Grade I, Group 18 position in the Conflict Defender's Office as part of the Upstate Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction Grant.
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, and to make any necessary funding modifications within the grant guidelines to meet contractual commitments.
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

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