



Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

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Committee Assignment
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WAYS & MEANS

April 5, 2024

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

Subject: Acceptance of a Grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for Criminal Justice Discovery Reform Funding for the District Attorney's Office and the Department of Public Safety, Office of Probation and Community Corrections

Honorable Legislators:

This matter is being referred to Your Honorable Body at the request of District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

I recommend that Your Honorable Body accept a grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for Criminal Justice Discovery Reform Funding in the amount of \$2,656,055 for the District Attorney's Office and the Department of Public Safety, Office of Probation and Community Corrections.

This program provides resources to support local law enforcement agencies with expenses related to discovery and pretrial reforms that took effect on January 1, 2020. These reforms require prosecutors to share evidence in their possession soon after arraignment and well in advance of trial. The reforms also allow defendants an opportunity to review evidence prior to pleading guilty to a crime and eliminate bail for many non-violent and low-level offenses. Eligible expenses include administrative support, computer equipment, data connectivity, training and related materials, overtime costs, litigation readiness, pre-trial services, and other discovery related expenses. This is the second year the County has received this grant. This year's funding represents a decrease of \$101,633 from last year.

Funds will be used to help support the following programs in the following departments:

- **District Attorney's Office:** Supports or partially supports ten (10) existing Criminal Law Assistant positions, four (4) new Criminal Law Assistant positions, two (2) existing Grand Jury Stenographer positions, four (4) existing positions in Digital Services and one (1) existing Confidential Clerk who serves as a Computer Systems Administrator. Provides funding for hardware and software fees associated with case management, data storage and connectivity, and discovery related furniture, fixtures and equipment.
- **Office of Probation and Community Corrections:** Supports or partially supports the cost of the pretrial services contract, electronic monitoring equipment and contract, an existing Electronic Monitoring Probation Assistant, an existing Fiscal Coordinator, an Electronic Monitoring Probation Officer and a Grants Development Analyst.

The funding amounts are as follows: \$2,048,372 for the District Attorney's Office, and \$607,683 for the Department of Public Safety, Office of Probation and Community Corrections.

The specific legislative actions required are:

1. Authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to accept a \$2,656,055 grant from, and to execute contracts and any amendments thereto with, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for Criminal Justice Discovery Reform Funding for the District Attorney's Office and the Department of Public Safety, Office of Probation and Community Corrections.
2. Amend the 2024 operating budget of the District Attorney's Office by appropriating the sum of \$2,048,372 into general fund 9001, funds center 2501010000, District Attorney - Central Administration.
3. Amend the 2024 operating budget of the Department of Public Safety, Office of Probation and Community Corrections by appropriating the sum of \$607,683 into general fund 9001, funds center 2403060000, Alternatives to Jail.
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, 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.
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 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 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,


FER
Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive