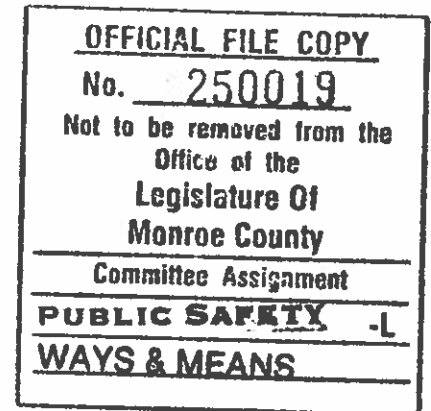




Office of the County Executive
Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

January 10, 2025



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

Subject: Acceptance of a Grant from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, for the Enhancing Investigations and Prosecution Program for the Office of the District Attorney and Authorize a Contract with Willow Domestic Violence Center of Greater Rochester

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 United States Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, in the amount of \$500,000 for the Enhancing Investigations and Prosecution Program for the Office of the District Attorney; create a Special Assistant District Attorney position, Group 21; and authorize a contract with Willow Domestic Violence Center of Greater Rochester ("Willow") in the amount of \$50,000 for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027.

The Enhancing Investigations and Prosecution Grant Program provides resources to expand the ability of prosecutors and law enforcement to respond to domestic violence cases as a part of a coordinated community effort. The Monroe County District Attorney's Office, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Rochester Police Department and several other public and private agencies have partnered with Willow on a pilot program to develop a Family Justice Center to provide streamlined medical, legal and social services for survivors of domestic violence. The Family Justice Center is currently in its pilot phase and is set to open full-time to the public in 2025.

This grant will allow the Family Justice Center partners to create a Domestic Violence Response Team to staff the Family Justice Center and ensure a more thorough process for investigations, arrests and prosecutions of domestic violence cases. This award funds the salary of one (1) new full-time Assistant District Attorney and one (1) new full-time District Attorney Investigator; covers a portion of the costs associated with a four-day Strangulation Prevention training; provides a \$50,000 sub-award to Willow for a portion of staff expenses related to the Domestic Violence Response Team; and funds grant-mandated training and technical assistance. This is the first year the County has received this grant, which is for a three-year period.

It was determined that Willow is a sole-source provider of emergency shelter and non-residential services for domestic violence in Monroe County.

The specific legislative actions required are:

1. Authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to accept a \$500,000 grant from, and to execute a contract and any amendments thereto with, the United States Department of Justice - Office of Violence Against Women, for the Enhancing Investigations and Prosecution Program in the Office of the District Attorney for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027.

2. Amend the 2025 operating budget of the District Attorney's Office by appropriating the sum of \$500,000 into general fund 9300, funds center 2505020000, Domestic Violence Bureau.
3. Authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to create one (1) new Special Assistant District Attorney position, Group 21.
4. Authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to execute a contract, and any amendments thereto, with Willow Domestic Violence Center of Greater Rochester, 693 East Avenue, Rochester, New York 14607, in the amount of \$50,000 for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027.
5. 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.
6. 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 United States Department of Justice - Office of Violence Against Women. No net County support is required in the current Monroe County Budget.

Willow Domestic Violence Center of Greater Rochester is a not-for-profit agency, and the records in the Office of the Monroe County Treasury have indicated that it does not owe any delinquent Monroe County property taxes.

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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