

Lyme & Tick-Borne Disease in Onondaga County

A Strategic Model of Prevention, Education and Regional Collaboration

Lyme and tick-borne diseases are a growing and complex public health challenge, with nearly half a million Americans diagnosed each year. New York, including our region, consistently ranks among the highest incidence rates in the country. With increased risk due to expanding tick habitat, climate trends and outdoor activities, prevention of exposure and early detection of illness continue to be critical.

History of Partnership Support & Demonstrated Impact

The Central New York model unites multiple public and private partner agencies, each independently funded and managed. The Central New York Lyme & Tick-Borne Disease Alliance serves a dual role: advancing prevention, education and advocacy as a community-based organization, while also acting as the primary convener for regional collaboration.

Through this coordinated approach, residents benefit from comprehensive resources, including surveillance, research, prevention, education and treatment. Over the past several years, demand for tick-borne disease education and safety kits has grown, while funding resources have remained flat.

Year	Total Budget CNY Lyme Alliance	Onondaga County Discretionary Contribution to CNY Lyme Alliance	Residents Educated by CNY Lyme Alliance	Tick Safety Kits Distributed by CNY Lyme Alliance
2025	\$416K	\$25K	17,500	14,000
2024	\$437K	\$25K	13,300	10,000
2023	\$393K	\$25K	5,000	2,500

CENTRAL NEW YORK
LYME & TICK-BORNE
DISEASE ALLIANCE



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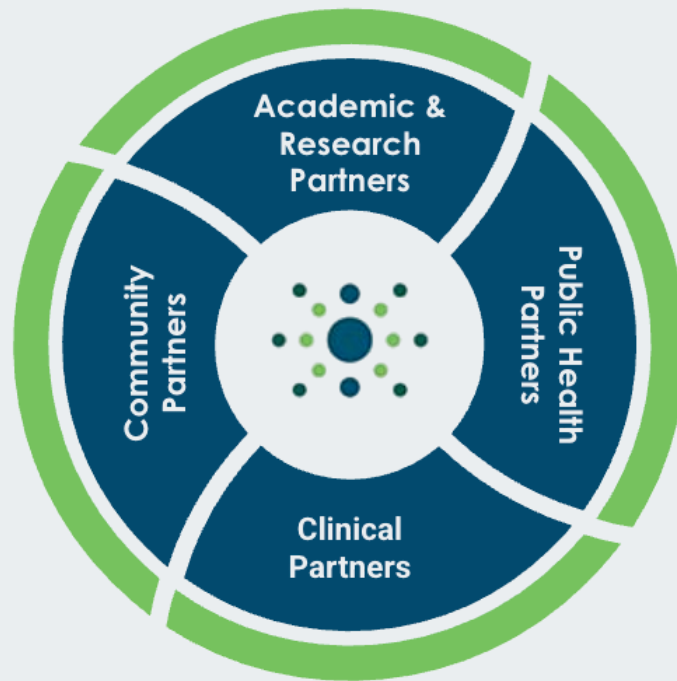
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THE CENTRAL NEW YORK MODEL

Collaboration, Leadership and Resources



A Strategic Regional Investment

In the past decade, Lyme and other tick-borne diseases have reached crisis levels in Central New York, yet funding has not kept pace. Confirmed cases have surged year over year, straining public health systems, burdening families with costly and often delayed diagnoses, and threatening the economic vitality of our outdoor recreation, tourism and agriculture sectors.

The CNY regional model works. Since 2019, this model has united critical partners in scientific surveillance, targeted prevention, community education and grassroots engagement. It delivers measurable results that no single agency can achieve alone. But without sustainable, dedicated funding, these gains are fragile – and the cost of inaction grows every season.

Making a dedicated financial commitment will:

Sustain a Critical Regional Infrastructure: The Alliance serves as the central convener of a coordinated network of partner agencies, providing essential regional infrastructure that cannot be built or maintained through year-to-year discretionary funding. Dedicated investment ensures continuity, alignment and long-term system effectiveness.

Deliver Consistent, Scalable Community Impact: Through 125+ annual initiatives reaching 17,500+ residents, the Alliance provides ongoing prevention, education and access to care. Predictable funding is necessary to sustain programming, respond to rising disease risk and scale impact across Central New York.

Ensure Accountability and Measurable Outcomes: A committed budget investment enables a regional tracking system that delivers transparent, annual reporting on reach, behavior change and partner outcomes. Sustained funding ensures measurable progress rather than fragmented, short-term efforts through discretionary support.