



Onondaga County Legislature

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REVISED

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

Livestream Available: [Onondaga County Legislature on YouTube](#)

9:00 a.m.
September 24, 2026

401 Montgomery St., Courthouse Room 407
Syracuse, New York 13202

- A. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- B. Presentation of Resolutions and Local Laws:
 - 1. **COUNTY LEGISLATURE:**
 - a. DISCUSSION: Establishing New American Affairs Council
 - b. DISCUSSION: Budget Discussion & Follow-Up Items
- C. Adjournment

DRAFT

October 6, 2026

Motion Made By [Sponsor Name(s)]

RESOLUTION NO. [NUMBER]

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE ONONDAGA COUNTY NEW AMERICAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL, A TEMPORARY ADVISORY BOARD OF CITIZENS, TO STUDY AND TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SERVICES FOR “NEW AMERICANS”

WHEREAS, Onondaga County is home to a diverse and growing population of immigrants, refugees, asylees, naturalized citizens, and other New Americans who contribute to the civic, cultural, educational, and economic life of the County, and issues affecting New Americans intersect with public safety and emergency preparedness, health and human services, immigration and legal services, language access, workforce and economic development, education and youth development, housing and transportation, culture and civic engagement, business development and entrepreneurship, non-profit and social services, and food access and nutrition; and

WHEREAS, New American residents and community leaders possess lived experience, professional expertise, and community relationships that can assist the County in identifying emerging issues and developing effective local responses; and

WHEREAS, this Onondaga County Legislature seeks to establish an advisory board of citizens, with the participation of the City of Syracuse, to review, study, identify, and recommend on issues impacting the New American community; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this Onondaga County Legislature hereby establishes the Onondaga County New American Affairs Council (the “Council”) as an advisory board to the County Executive, the Onondaga County Legislature, and other appropriate governmental bodies on matters affecting New Americans; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that for purposes of this resolution, “New American” means an individual born outside of the United States, or the child of such an individual, regardless of immigration status, including but not limited to: (a) immigrants and lawful permanent residents; (b) refugees; (c) asylees and pending asylum applicants; (d) individuals holding Temporary Protected Status; (e) parolees, including individuals granted humanitarian or other parole; (f) individuals granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status; (g) naturalized United States citizens; and (h) any other status, category, or classification under federal or state immigration law not otherwise enumerated above; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Council shall: (a) identify emerging issues, barriers, opportunities, policies, programs, and services affecting New Americans; (b) identify gaps and opportunities for coordination among County government, municipalities, and community organizations; (c) engage New American residents and stakeholders and incorporate community input into its work; (d) by majority vote, designate priority issues for focused study; (e) work with the appropriate County department or agency to examine each designated issue and, where necessary, request that such

department or agency assist in undertaking a study and provide relevant non-confidential data to inform the Council's findings and recommendations; (f) present its findings and recommendations, in writing, to the appropriate committee of the Legislature; and (g) share its findings and recommendations with the County Executive's Office for consideration of funding and inclusion in the next practicable County budget, and, where funding is needed, work with the appropriate County department and the County Executive to develop and implement a plan to address it; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that a majority of the Council's voting members shall be New Americans, and that, to the extent practicable, the New American-designated members shall collectively reflect a range of continents and world regions of origin, including Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that each appointing authority shall select, for each seat under subsections (a) and (b), a member possessing demonstrated knowledge, professional expertise, lived experience, or community leadership in the corresponding qualification area; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Council shall consist of twelve (12) voting members and three (3) non-voting members, appointed as follows, with the twelve (12) voting members appointed under subsections (a) through (b) subject to confirmation by the Onondaga County Legislature, and the three (3) members appointed under subsections (c) and (d) subject to confirmation by the City of Syracuse:

- (a) Five (5) voting members appointed by the County Executive. Three (3) shall be New Americans, of whom: one (1) shall have expertise in Food Access and Nutrition; one (1) shall have expertise in Health and Human Services; and one (1) shall have expertise in Workforce and Economic Development. Of the remaining members, one (1) shall be an at-large member appointed without regard to a specific qualification area, and one (1) shall have professional expertise in Business Development and Entrepreneurship; and
- (b) Seven (7) voting members appointed by the Chair of the Legislature. Four (4) shall be New Americans, of whom: one (1) shall have expertise in Immigration and Legal Services; one (1) shall have expertise in Language Access; one (1) shall have expertise in Culture and Civic Engagement; and one (1), between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-four (24), shall have lived experience with issues affecting New American youth in education and youth development. Of the remaining members, one (1) shall have professional expertise in Housing and Transportation, one (1) shall have professional expertise in Non-Profit and Social Services Systems, and one (1) shall have professional expertise in Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness; and
- (c) Two (2) non-voting members appointed by the Mayor of the City of Syracuse. Both shall be at-large designees appointed without regard to a specific qualification area, and one (1) of the two shall be a New American; and
- (d) One (1) non-voting member, appointed by the Councilors-At-Large of the Common Council of the City of Syracuse and confirmed by the City of Syracuse. Such member shall be an at-large designee appointed without regard to a specific qualification area; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Council shall elect a Chair from among its New American voting members, and a Vice Chair from among its voting members; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Council shall adopt bylaws governing its meetings, procedures, voting, and committees, consistent with this resolution and applicable law, and may invite County and other governmental representatives and community stakeholders to its meetings to provide relevant information; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that members shall serve one-year terms; vacancies shall be filled by the applicable appointing authority for the unexpired term, subject to confirmation by the Onondaga County Legislature or the City of Syracuse, as applicable; that the Council shall convene its organizational meeting within thirty (30) days of confirming a majority of its voting members and meet at least quarterly thereafter; and that the Council shall operate for an initial two-year period, after which it shall evaluate its work and recommend continuation, modification, or transition to permanent status, any such action requiring a resolution adopted by majority vote of the Onondaga County Legislature; and that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.