

ONONDAGA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

2027 EXECUTIVE BUDGET WRITTEN STATEMENT

SECTION 1:

2026 INITIATIVES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Enhanced violence intervention and diversion programming for youth. In partnership with the Department of Children & Family Services, launched new contract with Youth Advocates Program. This program provides intensive services and case management for youth and families at high risk of becoming involved in violence.
- Launched a new pretrial release structure with Center for Justice Innovation to enhance Onondaga County's pretrial release services and strengthen community-based supervision, accountability, and court compliance.
- Expanded domestic violence supervision capacity by creating a dedicated Domestic Violence Unit utilizing funding through DCJS's Statewide Targeted Reduction in Intimate Partner Violence grant. This unit now provides enhanced supervision of high-risk domestic violence cases utilizing GPS monitoring, cognitive behavioral interventions delivered directly by POs, and specialized details with our STRIVE law enforcement partners.
- Successfully facilitated and hosted the second annual Municipal Police Training Council certified Basic Course for Peace Officers. This is a nine-week course required by NYS for all new Peace Officers and the only Probation Department run program in the State.
- Continued community engagement efforts including extensive involvement with the Syracuse Police Athletic League, Book Buddies, The Building Men Program, community resource fairs and our own food distribution. Probation presence in areas such as Armory Square, Destiny USA, and community pools, parks, and libraries has shown to reduce negative or anti-social behavior in the community and has been welcomed by the community and our local law enforcement partners.
- The Probation Department continues to be an integral partner in the Central New York Threat Assessment, Management & Strategy Team, assisting in the identification and management of both adults and juveniles who present a serious threat of mass harm. Probation continues to provide coordination of the school-based threat assessments with a dedicated Probation Officer.
- Research project started in collaboration with the University of Albany and the Finn Institute through funding provided entirely by DCJS. This project will assist us in identifying and addressing the latest trends in problematic youth behavior and the effectiveness of existing interventions.
- Created the Administrative Officer position to strengthen hiring, onboarding, training coordination, implementation tracking, and administrative operations.

2026 BUDGET REVIEW

The Probation Department was able to accomplish the above while remaining well within the 2026 budget.

SECTION 2:

2027 BUDGET OVERVIEW

The 2027 budget includes standard salary and wage increases consistent with the baseline budgeting approach

The Probation Department's 2027 Travel and Training appropriation remains flat from 2026 and primarily supports required employee mileage and parking. The account also supports specialized professional development in areas such as officer safety and defensive tactics, firearms instruction, probation administration, youth justice, threat management, assessment and case planning, treatment courts, workforce development, and other criminal justice best practices. These trainings help ensure Probation staff maintain required skills and remain current on evolving practices and State requirements.

The Probation Department's 2027 Professional Services and Contractual Services appropriations remain flat from 2026. Professional Services supports case management, digital forensic, and PowerDMS software, as well as polygraph examinations, medical laboratory services, and interpreter services. Contractual Services supports the Pretrial Release Program, Alternatives to Incarceration programs, the Thinking for a Change Program, and Moral Reconation Therapy.

The Probation Department's 2027 budget includes an increase in State Aid primarily related to additional funding for Pretrial Release services and Raise the Age programming.

SECTION 3:

2027 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In 2027, the Probation Department will prioritize maintaining adequate staffing and supervisory capacity to support the Department's expanding responsibilities and increasing operational demands. We will continue to strengthen juvenile justice and Raise the Age services, while sustaining essential pretrial operations. We will also continue to expand specialized supervision services, including domestic violence, GPS monitoring, and high-risk supervision, ensuring that officers have the resources, training, and support necessary to effectively manage increasingly complex caseloads.

The Department will continue to invest in recruitment, training, officer safety, technology, data reporting, evidence-based programming, and reliable field resources. As state mandates and expectations continue to evolve, these investments will help ensure that the Department can adapt while maintaining effective and accountable services to the courts, justice system partners, and the community. We will also place an increased emphasis on succession planning and the development of supervisory and leadership capacity to ensure continuity of operations and preserve institutional knowledge as workforce changes occur.