



# Onondaga County Legislature

**JAMIE McNAMARA**  
Clerk

**TIMOTHY T. BURTIS**  
Chairman

**TAMMY BARBER**  
Deputy Clerk

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## COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S 2025 BUDGET PRESENTATION TO THE ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Burtis, Mr. Meaker, Ms. Gunnip, Ms. Cody, Ms. Abbott, Mr. Romeo, Mr. Ryan, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Olson, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Bush, Dr. Kelly, Mr. Brown, Mr. Garland, Ms. Hernandez

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. May, Mr. McCarron

Chairman Burtis called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and asked Legislator Knapp to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Burtis introduced County Executive J. Ryan McMahon.

County Executive J. Ryan McMahon, II:  
(PowerPoint Presentation on file with the Clerk)

*Good Morning*

*Chairman Burtis, Leaders May & Ryan, Members of the Legislature and guests, thank you for being here.*

*Over the last nine months, our community has continued to build on the momentum, progress and unprecedented success. The "Onondaga Comeback" is happening. Our generations Erie Canal moment is now. We are once again relevant on a global stage as we become a Hub for Memory technology Semiconductor Manufacturing.*

*We cannot forget the strategies and policies that have put us in this unique position. That is why we must remain focused on delivering on our PIE Agenda – focusing on poverty and barriers to employment, infrastructure and economic development.*

*My 2025 budget reflects my unwavering optimism and excitement for our future, while at the same time acknowledging the current economic volatility. This Budget is focused on delivering results for Families and most importantly our kids. It proposes sizeable tax relief for homeowners. And it also calls for increased investments in our people, infrastructure and our future.*

*But first let's recap just some of the success we have had as a community this past year:*

- *In partnership with the legislature we have invested in implementing our Comprehensive Plan*

*We have made historic investments in -*

- *Our hospitality infrastructure to support the economic sectors that drive sales tax growth*
- *Ag Investments to support the family farm and drive Ag tourism*
- *Hotel Initiative to help drive desperately needed hotel development*
- *Main Street investments as we continue to revitalize our small downtowns and business districts.*
- *We continue our partnership with Lemoyne college and the Erie 21 program.*

*This workforce strategy is helping create the STEM related workforce of tomorrow now.*

- *We invested in Child care center grants, helping small business expand and stabilize their facilities to offer more quality daycare slots to families.*

*We are neck deep in the environmental review of the White Pine Business Park which is the first phase of this 100-billion-dollar investment, and we recently announced that Micron's name will join the Downtown Syracuse Sky line.*

*Of course, none of it would be possible without the team we have in County government, and I want to thank all of our employees who work to execute on these goals and make Onondaga County better each and every day. Thank you.*

*You have heard me say before that I view the budget as a statement of values and priorities. My 2025 budget prioritizes tax relief to our citizens, revitalizing our infrastructure and our neighborhoods, continuing our aggressive fight against lead, it continues investments in housing, as well as additional workforce development resources.*

*But let's first talk numbers.*

*I stand before you today presenting a fully balanced 2025 budget. And for the 7th year in a row, it does not use any fund balance.*

*The strong and prudent fiscal track record of Onondaga County is simply undeniable. And this track record is what has allowed us to ultimately make substantial cuts in the property tax rate. Last year we proposed a cut in the tax rate from \$4.26 per thousand to \$3.62 per thousand. It equaled a 15% tax cut on the county property tax rate.*

*This year, I am proposing that we further cut the county property tax rate. We don't lead from behind in Onondaga County. And we know our residents need relief. That is why my 2025 Executive Budget calls for reducing the property tax rate from \$3.62 per thousand to \$3.31 per thousand. A 9% cut to the property tax rate.*

*To put this into further context, we would have the lowest County rate among major upstate counties.*

*If approved, we will have cut the property tax rate nearly 42% since I joined county government. While the County is not able to control every aspect of what drives your tax bill, one thing is for sure: My administration has worked diligently every year to make county government more lean, efficient and affordable while still providing the services the people of this community expect.*

*It has been well reported the numerous economic headwinds and high inflation affecting our Country. This economic uncertainty means we must be even more conservative in our budgeting. CFO Steve Morgan and his team are projecting that we will end the 2024 fiscal year with a 2% growth in sales tax and we are forecasting a 1% growth in sales tax for 2025.*

*Nevertheless, this budget continues to make strategic and important investments in our community, our baseline operations, public safety and specifically our children.*

*Our commitment to ensuring our children are kindergarten ready is stronger than ever. This budget calls for additional resources for our partners at the Early Childhood Alliance to continue their invaluable work in this space.*

*This budget also continues to fund our nationally recognized school based mental health program with another 5.5 million dollars. Our kids need support, and we will make sure that they continue to get it.*

*I am also pleased to share with you that earlier this week we were awarded a 4-million-dollar Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services grant from the federal government. This grant will transform how we care for children with serious emotional disturbances and intellectual or developmental disabilities. These kids are often stuck in hospital beds, out-of-home placements or even end up in the juvenile justice system due to multiple barriers.*

*While it is very important that we are one of very few communities in the country receiving this grant, it is actually an offshoot of our original proposal for Sycamore House. New York State would not allow us to open Sycamore House for multiple bureaucratic reasons, but now with this grant we will be able to accomplish many of the goals we had aspired to address without a physical location.*

*Recently my administration implemented a childcare center capital improvement program. With help from our partners at Child Care Solutions, we started accepting applications for this initiative earlier this summer. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and we expect all available funding to be awarded. The demand for safe and reliable child care will only grow in our community and the rapidly changing rules and regulations can make it difficult for providers to remain compliant. That is why I am proposing we allocate another \$250,000 towards child care center capital grants.*

*This budget also continues our investment in the ERIE 21 program and expands the program so additional school districts can participate. ERIE 21 is a unique program focused on early intervention while providing ongoing support to students as they progress on their educational career. ERIE 21 simultaneously trains these students for careers in areas such as cyber security, software and engineering to help fill the growing demand in these fields.*

*This budget also specifically addresses the most vulnerable children in our community.*

*Our community continues to mourn the tragic deaths of Ashton and Neffy.*

*After we lost Ashton, I asked two of the most respected and trusted voices in this space for their help. Judges Martha Mulroy and Martha Walsh Hood quickly got to work reviewing specific cases and providing feedback on efforts we could make to better improve our day-to-day interactions with children and families.*

*Some of the Judges recommendations included:*

- Creating a child welfare community engagement committee;*
- Explore respite opportunities for at risk teenagers;*
- Flagging “subsequent calls” on opens cases for administrative review; and*
- Reducing the administrative burden for caseworkers*

*I am happy to report we are working on implementing or have implemented all of these recommendations. Casework involves many administrative tasks that take caseworkers out of the field and limits their time to directly engage with families. And NYS continues to add administrative requirements to the job.*

*Additionally, there are certain times that the department experiences a surge in case loads making it even more important that our caseworkers are in the field during these times. Not performing administrative tasks. To address this reality, my 2025 budgets calls for an additional 10 caseworkers to be added to the Child Welfare Division.*

*It also calls for the creation of 5 casework assistant positions. These new positions will be able to help Caseworker's with the administrative tasks they are responsible for such as setting up meetings, requesting records and ensuring that all necessary paperwork is completed. This large investment in our department will make sure we are staffed for Surge caseloads and deliver the best possible results for our most vulnerable kids.*

*For the first time in over a generation, we are once again a growing community. And like every growing community, we are experiencing some growing pains – especially in the area of housing.*

*Prior to my administration, any investments or incentives in housing were essentially done by every level of government EXCEPT the county. We do not control zoning or code enforcement. But the need for quality housing has never been greater and that need will only continue to grow. That is why my administration created the Onondaga County Housing Initiative Program or OCHIP and modified our IDA UTEP to stimulate new housing development.*

*With respect to OCHIP, this initiative is proving to be incredibly successful. To date, we have awarded almost 5.5 million dollars which has leveraged nearly FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT million dollars from the private sector. I know some legislators will be especially happy to know that of that 5.5 million, 72% has been awarded to projects within the City of Syracuse and 62% of it is supporting affordable or mixed income projects. Earlier this year, we completed the first ever housing needs assessment for our county. This assessment provides us with a comprehensive overview of our current housing challenges as well as a data driven projection of future housing needs in our community.*

*As we look to make additional investments in housing, it is important that they are strategic, targeted and in line with our county comprehensive plan. That is why I am proposing a 275,000-dollar investment for what I am calling a “Housing Phase 2” study. This plan will dive deeper into the housing needs of our community going forward and identify specific gaps that county government can help fill. The Housing Phase 2 plan will be the road map that drives future County investments in housing. I am prepared to advance a fund balance resolution later in 2025 execute on specific recommendations.*

*There is no question that lead continues to be a pervasive issue in our community. And with support of the legislature, I am incredibly proud that my administration has appropriated historic levels of funding to comprehensively address this issue.*

*Since becoming County Executive, we have allocated over 11 million dollars in additional funding to tackle this issue. And under the leadership of Health Commissioner Dr. Anderson and Director of Lead Operations Jessica Vinciguerra, our team has worked diligently to identify – and knock down – any barriers that got in the way of our efforts.*

*For example:*

- Our team organized and funded trainings to increase the number of EPA certified contractors. In fact, from July 2023 to August of this year – 299 certificates were issued thanks to these efforts. I am also happy to share that this initiative includes a partnership with the Syracuse City School District and has resulted in several students also receiving this certification*
- Our team has implemented new strategies to reduce any barriers when it comes to testing our kids. Whether it be bringing the mobile lead van to specific neighborhoods or partnering with the city school district, we remain committed to meeting people where they are*
- We are on track to remediate over 200 homes using our federal grant dollars and I am happy to share that our community development team is currently working to submit another grant application to continue our*

*Addressing the lead issue is more than just dollars and cents. And it is also more than just swapping out some doors and windows. That is why we implanted programs like “Lead it Go”. It takes a comprehensive, all of the above approach to truly tackle this problem and that is what we will continue to do. And to that end, this budget calls for another million dollars of flexible lead funds.*

*This budget cuts the tax rate 9% to a historic low, strengthens our County departments and invests in our neighborhoods and housing. This budget invests in our roads, sewer and water infrastructure. This Budget continues to be aspirational for the future and reflects our unwavering belief in the potential of our community. We will continue to build on the success we have seen and position ourselves to realize growth and promise like our community has never seen before.*

*We look forward to working with you in the weeks to come.*

*God Bless you all.*

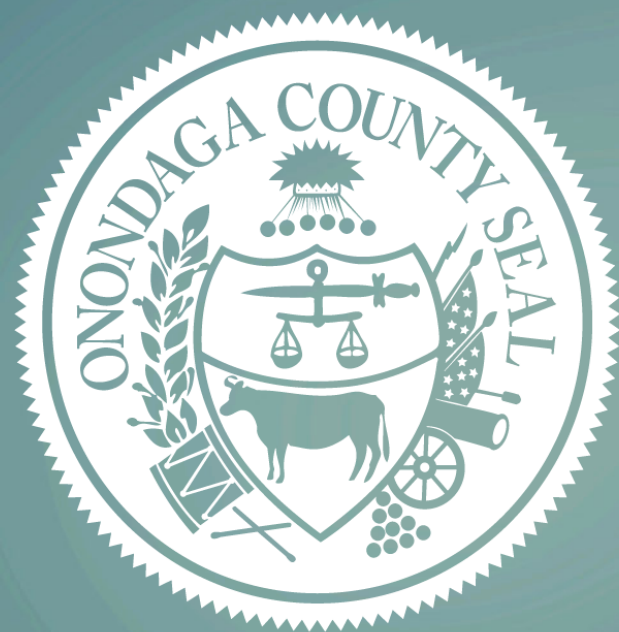
Chairman Burtis thanked County Executive McMahon, and stated that the Ways and Means Committee formally starts the review process next Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature



# 2025 Executive Budget Presentation

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J. Ryan McMahon, II, County Executive

# Onondaga County Legislature





**OUR ERIE CANAL MOMENT IS NOW**



An aerial photograph of a complex highway interchange with multiple lanes, overpasses, and ramps. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter and a network of white lines connecting various circular icons. These icons include a cloud, a satellite, a car, a location pin, a Wi-Fi signal, a battery, and a person walking. The text 'POVERTY', 'INFRASTRUCTURE', and 'ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT' is prominently displayed in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

**POVERTY**

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**INVESTING IN OUR...**

**PEOPLE  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
FUTURE**

# County Executive J. Ryan McMahon, II Announces Release of Plan Onondaga

CNYCENTRAL

## Onondaga leaders push for more hotel rooms, offer up to \$750,000 in incentives

## Onondaga County launches \$500,000 grant program to boost childcare facilities

## More than Just Books: Summer reading program at Onondaga County Public Libraries

by Abigail Buttacavoli | Sun, June 30th 2024 at 8:26 AM

## Onondaga County incentive program helps put more housing units in the pipeline

WAER | By Scott Willis  
Published May 8, 2024 at 5:10 PM EDT

WAER88.3

## County Executive McMahon Announces Funding for Summer 2024 Youth Teams Sports Programs

## Onondaga County's new \$12.5 million anti-poverty push: Here's where it would be spent

Updated: Jul. 19, 2024, 6:01 a.m. | Published: Jul. 19, 2024, 6:00 a.m.

## Onondaga County chips in to help pay for affordable housing in Syracuse

Updated: Feb. 15, 2024, 7:28 p.m. | Published: Feb. 15, 2024, 5:47 p.m.

syracuse.com

AGRICULTURE

## 'Farmland is valuable': Onondaga County announces grants for local farms to improve agritourism

BY EMILY KENNY, REPORT FOR AMERICA CORPS MEMBER | CENTRAL NY  
PUBLISHED 2:54 PM ET MAY 14, 2024

SPECTRUM NEWS 1

## County Executive McMahon Honors Local Seniors at 2024 Older Americans Month Celebration Luncheon

## Minoa businesses awarded money for exterior improvements

by Jason Klaiber — June 7, 2024 in Business, Eagle Bulletin

Syracuse University NEWS

Syracuse University, Onondaga County Make Combined \$20M Investment to Launch the Syracuse University Center for Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing

Thursday, May 16, 2024

## Onondaga County Executive looking ahead to younger generation's bright future

by: Kendra Broddus  
Posted: Mar 14, 2024 / 10:05 PM EDT

LOCALSYR.com



MICRON COMES TO CLAY

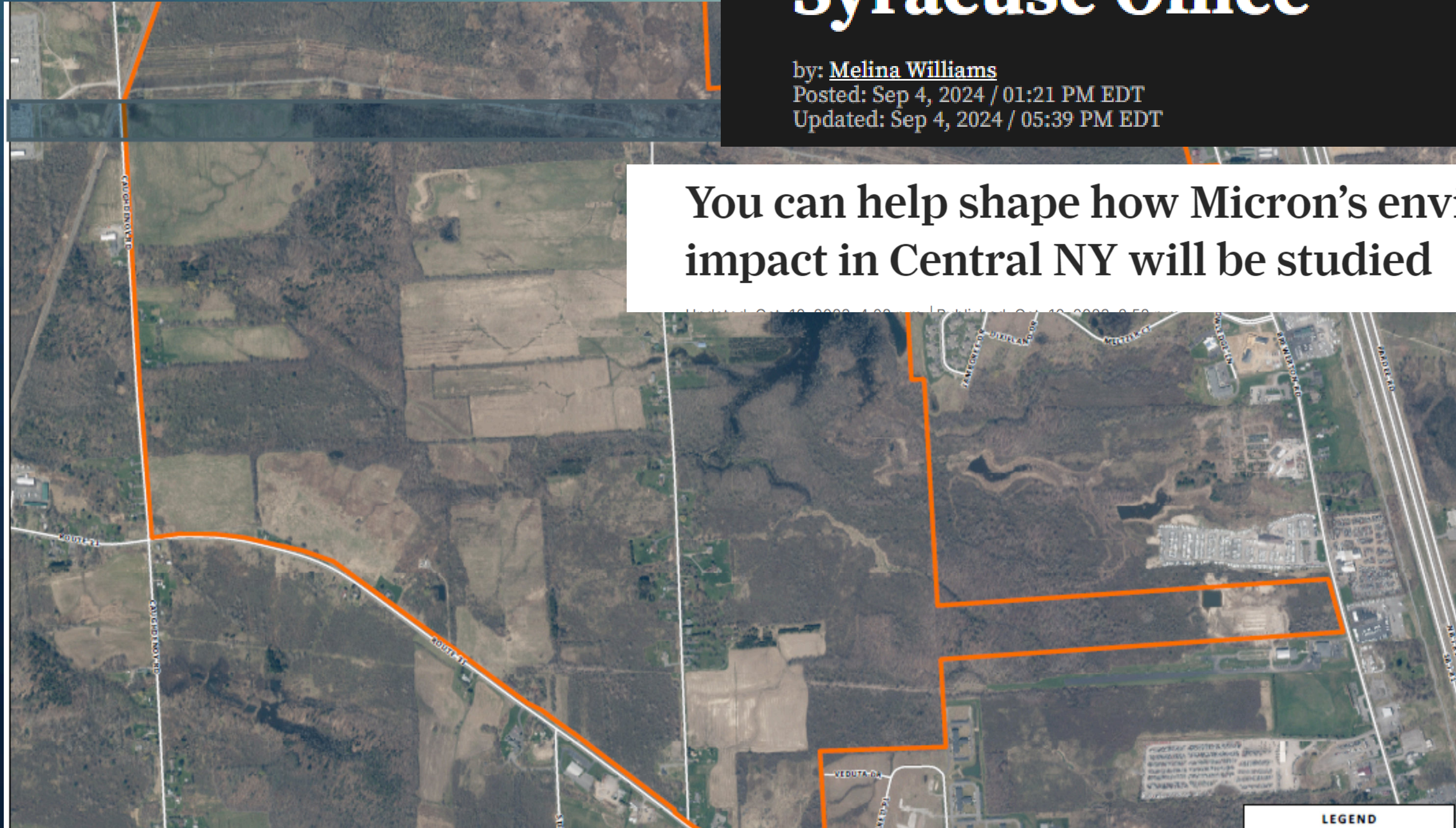
# Micron selects a downtown Syracuse Office

by: [Melina Williams](#)

Posted: Sep 4, 2024 / 01:21 PM EDT

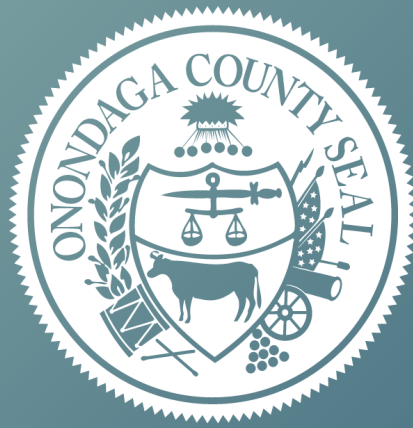
Updated: Sep 4, 2024 / 05:39 PM EDT

You can help shape how Micron's environmental impact in Central NY will be studied



# THANK YOU TO OUR COUNTY TEAM



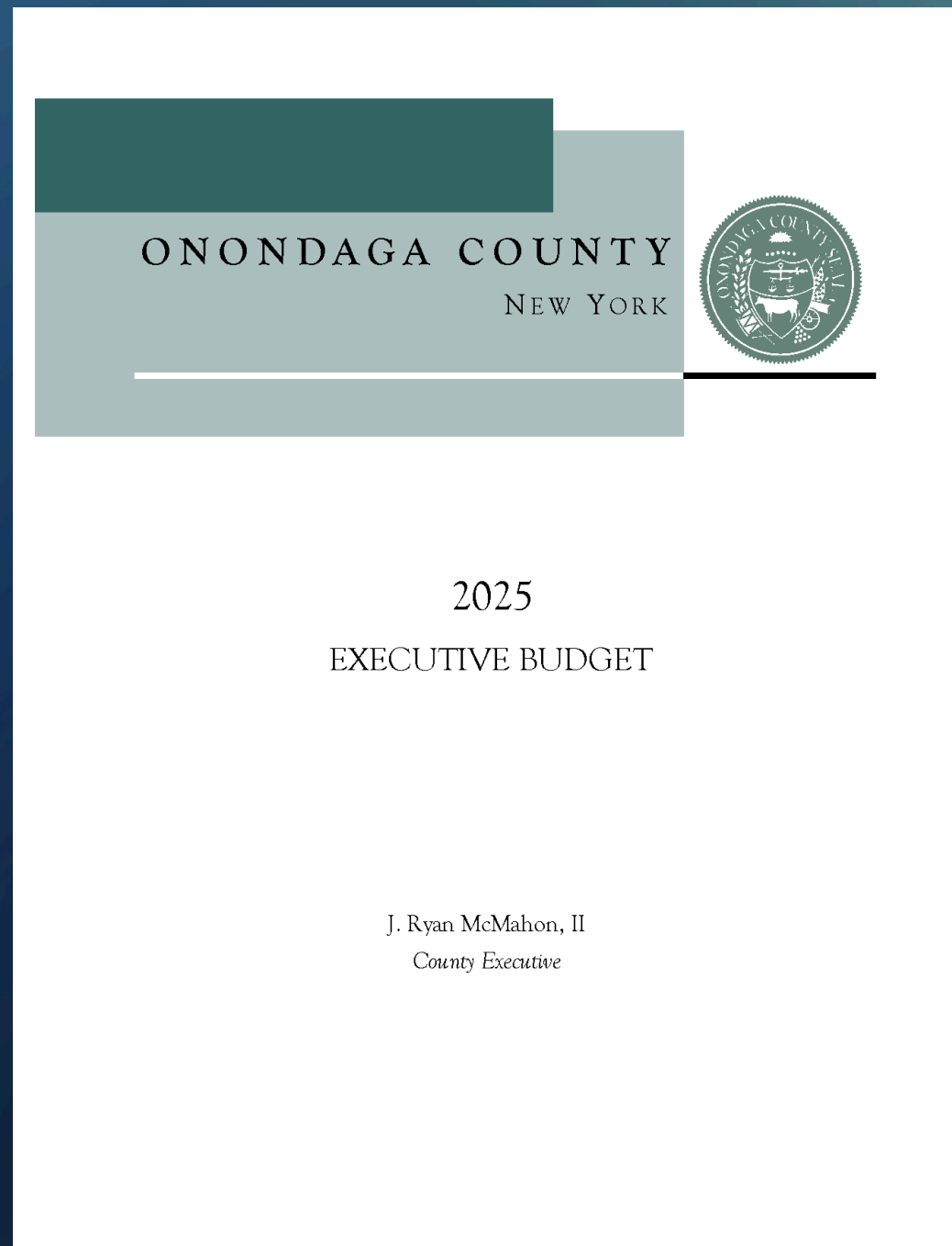


*2025 Executive Budget*

# Values & Priorities:

- 01 Tax Relief
- 02 Investments in Infrastructure & Housing
- 03 Continuing to Tackle Lead
- 04 Additional Workforce Development Resources

# 2025 Executive Budget



*7th year in a row*  
*without using general*  
*fund reserves*

# UNDENIABLE

## *Fiscal Track Record*

**\$4.26 (2023)**



**\$3.62 (2024)**

*per thousand*



# TAX



# Lean. Efficient. Affordable.

**\$3.31** (2025)  
*per thousand*

**9% REDUCTION in the Property  
Tax Rate**

***That's \$60+ savings for  
homes assessed at \$200K!***

# Lean. Efficient. Affordable.

*Onondaga County Tax Rate*

**\$3.31 (2025)**

*Erie County Tax Rate*

**\$3.54**

*Monroe County Tax Rate*

**\$6.19**

# ***Sales Tax Projections***

*Economic Headwinds & High Inflation*

***2024 = 2% Growth***



***2025 = 1% Growth***

# Continued Investments in the Early Childhood Alliance



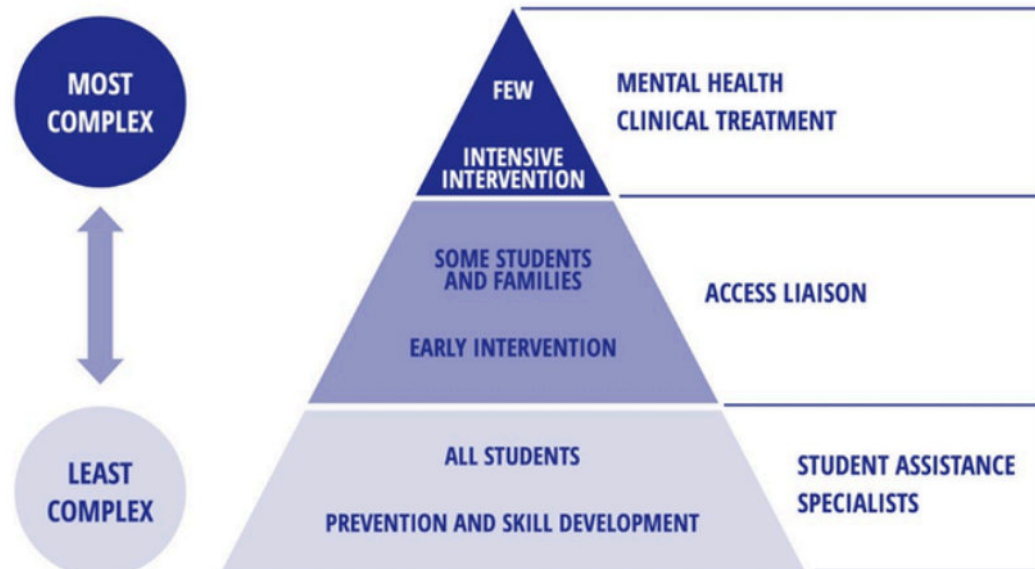


# Tackling the 'second pandemic' in schools

Onondaga County Executive J. Ryan McMahon, II is well ahead of the curve on tackling mental health issues in his community. He said he recognized the need for addressing the mental health crisis in his schools long before COVID hit.

## Children's Mental Health and School Based Initiatives Expansion Model for All Schools in Onondaga County

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS

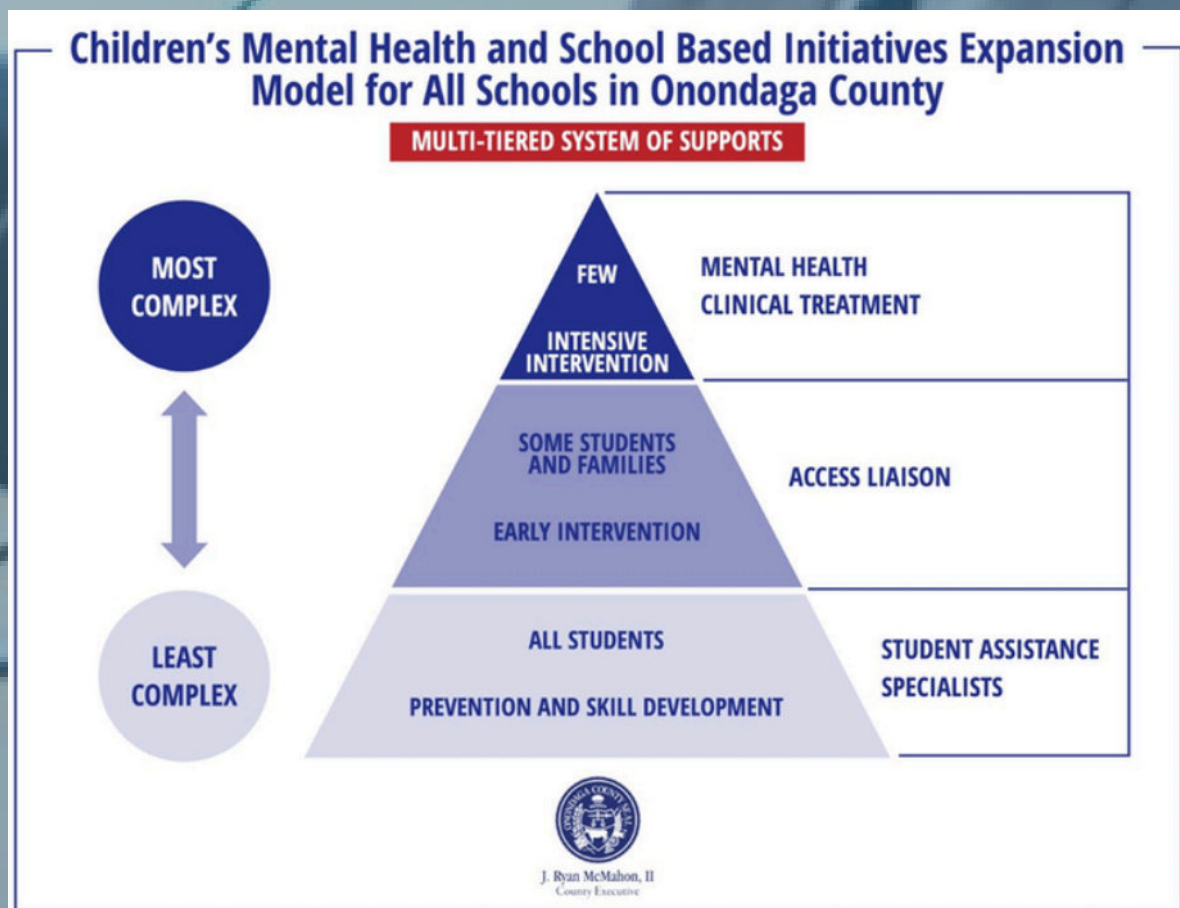


J. Ryan McMahon, II  
County Executive



# Tackling the 'second pandemic' in schools

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*\$4 Million Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Grant Awarded*

County Executive McMahan Announces Applications  
Now Being Accepted for 2024 Child Care  
Enhancement Grant Program in Partnership with Child  
Care Solutions



**\$250K**

*for Child Care Center  
Capital Grants*



# Expanding the ERIE 21 Program





# Department of Children and Family

## Recommendations From Judge Walsh Hood & Judge Mulroy:

- *Create a Child Welfare Community Engagement Committee*
- *Explore respite options for at risk teens*
- *Flag subsequent calls on open cases for administrative review*
- *Reduce the administrative burden for caseworkers*

# Support for Children & Families

Onondaga County Children  
and Family Services

[Why Casework?](#) [Benefits & Pay](#) [Application Process](#) [Job Opportunities](#) [Department Info](#) [Contact](#)



**Why Casework?**

**10 Caseworker Positions**

**5 Casework Assistant  
Positions**



**Let's Make a Difference Together – Join Our  
Caseworker Team!**

Employees of the Department of Child and Family Services provide individualized support, empowerment, and services to clients throughout Onondaga County.

***Caseworkers.ongov.net***

# Onondaga County Housing Initiative Program (O-CHIP)



We are a growing community facing a shortage of housing like we have never seen before.

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Current market conditions are making it incredibly difficult for developers to move forward with housing projects.

Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon created the O-CHIP program to address these issues head-on and it has been incredibly successful.

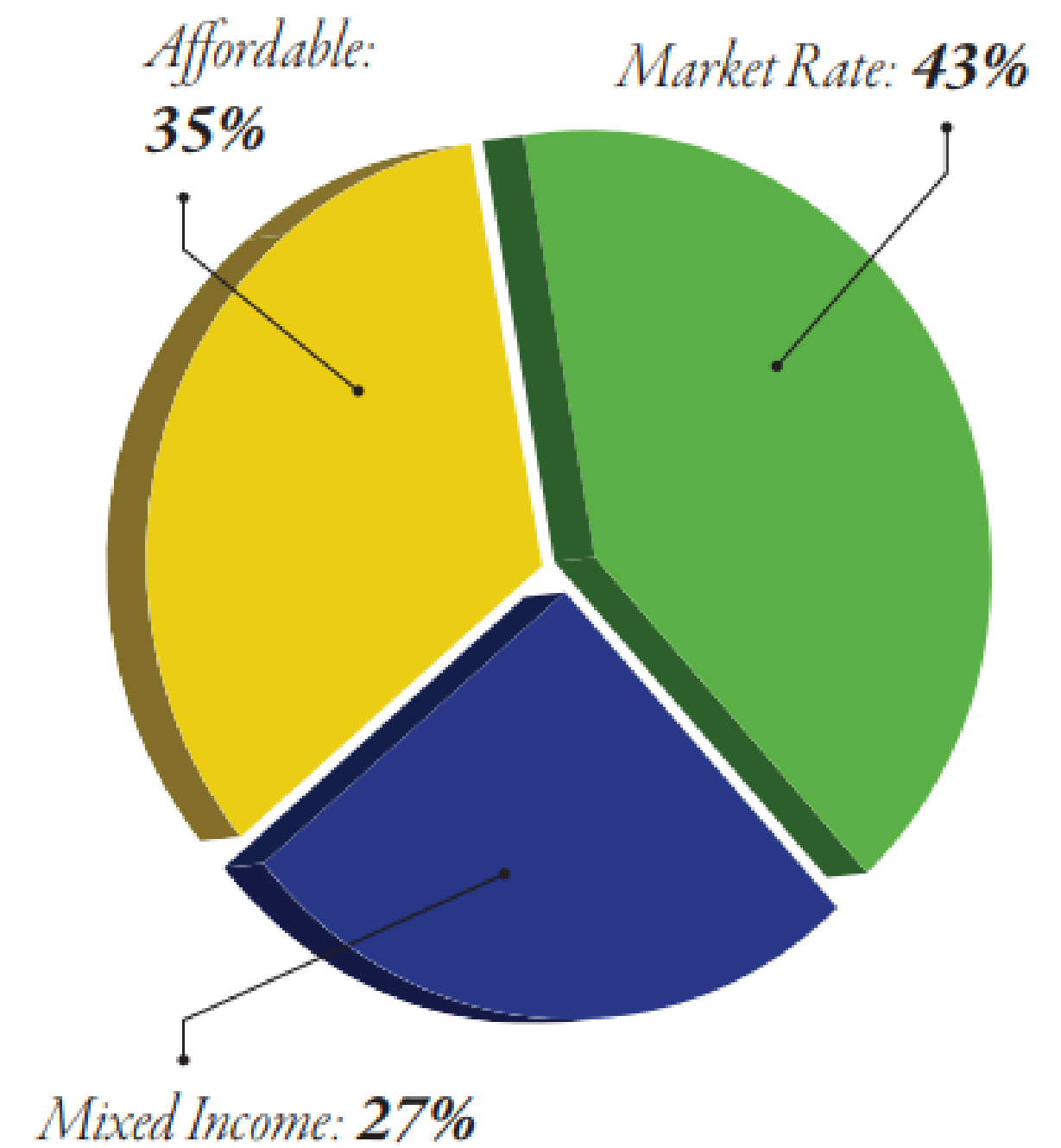
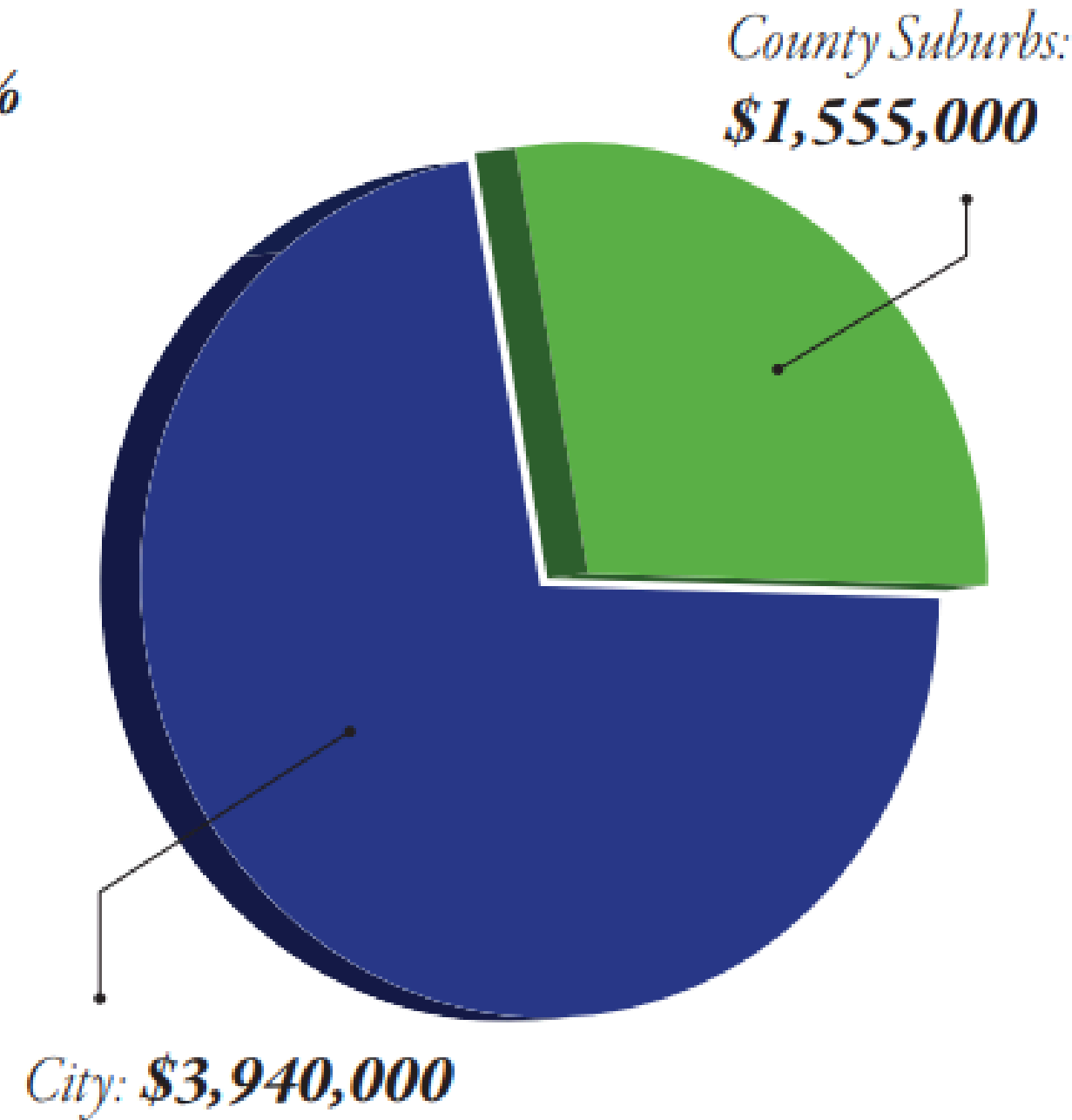
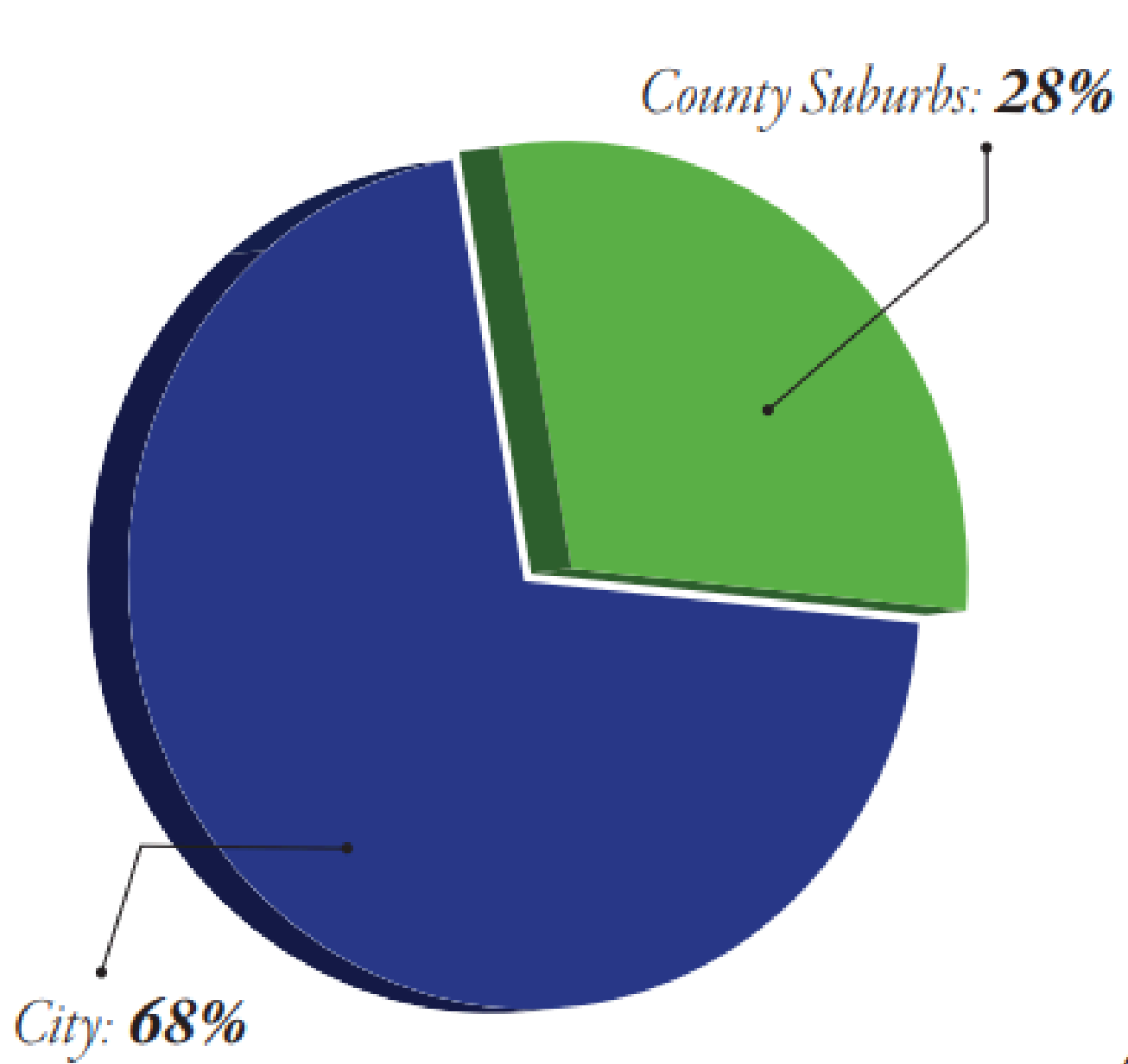
The O-CHIP program provides developers with **\$5,000** per unit up to **\$250,000** to assist in closing funding gaps and getting projects under construction.

So far **\$5,495,000** has been awarded to support projects totaling **\$487,608,528.**

Total Units:  
**1,377**

Amount  
Awarded

Type of  
Housing





## **THE TAFT IN EAST SYRACUSE**

Transforming the old Eastwood American Legion Post 1276 into 28 market rate apartments.



## **CDS VAN BUREN APARTMENTS**

Building 70 units of mixed income housing for people between 30-80% Average Median Income (AMI). 11 units will be dedicated to homeless Veterans with special needs.



## **1117 WEST FAYETTE STREET**

Rehabbing an abandoned building into 38 units. 29 units will be dedicated to people at 80% AMI and 9 units will be dedicated to people at 50% AMI.



## **2520 SOUTH SALINA STREET**

Rehabbing a vacant building into 8 four bedroom, two bathroom mixed income apartments.



## **CAMILLUS MILLS PHASE III**

Continuing the revitalization of the former Camillus Cutlery property in the Village of Camillus, Phase III will add another new building with 27 market rate apartments.



## **CLINTON STREET APARTMENTS**

Right in the heart of Armory Square a decrepit parking garage will be demolished and replaced by a six story building with 88 apartments, 3,000 sq/ft of commercial space and an underground parking garage.



## **MINOA VILLAS IN THE VILLAGE OF MINOA**

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Building 86 single family market rate rental homes.



## **MARION GARDEN TOWNHOMES**

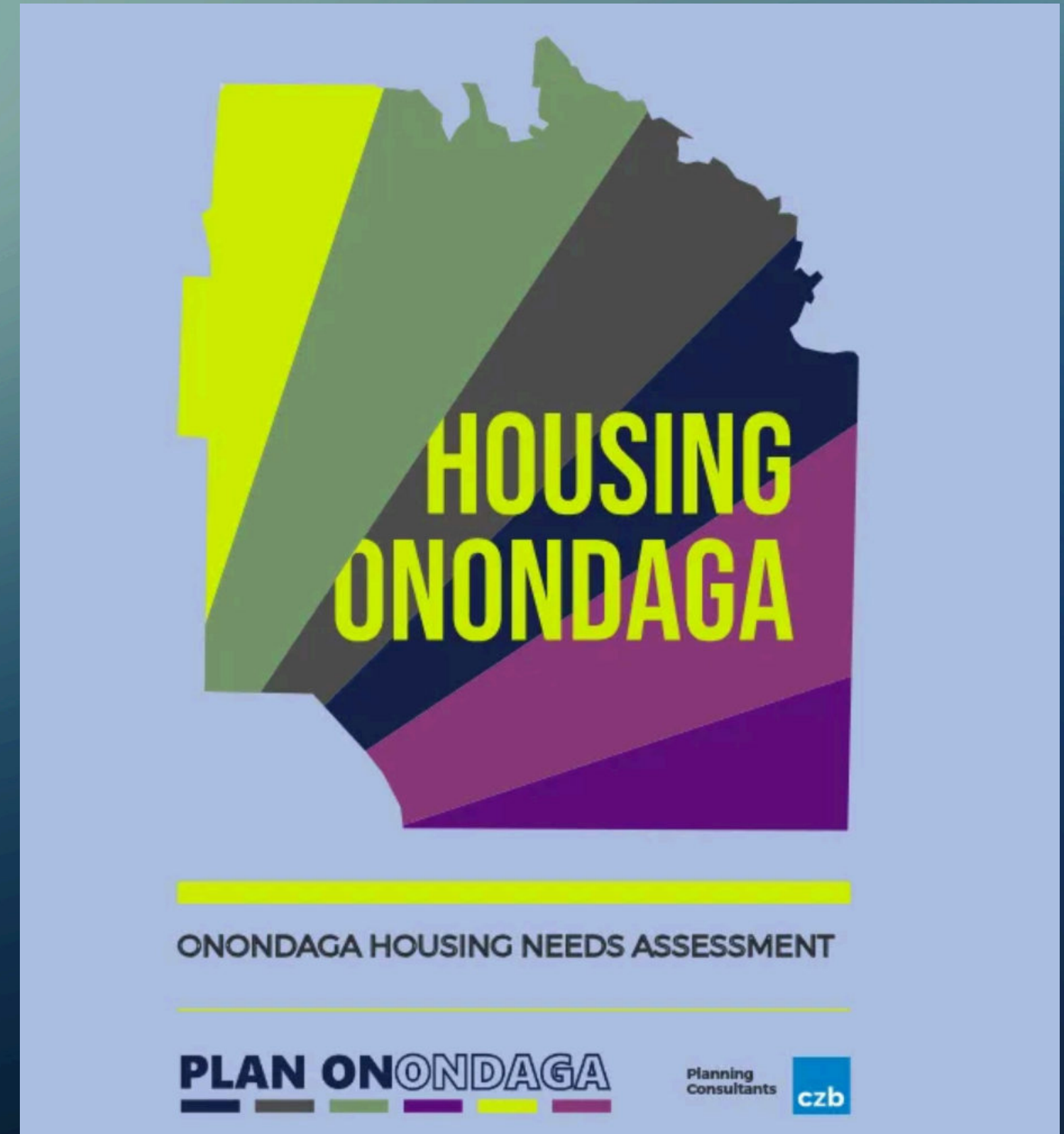
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Expanding Marion Meadows in the Town of Van Buren by adding 14 newly constructed market rate townhomes.

# Investing in Housing

**\$275K**

*for Housing Phase 2*





# Tackling Lead

...

**\$11.2 Million**  
additional dollars in  
lead flexible funding!



**ongovhealth**  
**Onondaga County**  
**Health Department**  
[ongov.net/health](http://ongov.net/health) · [facebook.com/ongovhealth](https://facebook.com/ongovhealth)



**ONONDAGA COUNTY**  
**Lead Initiatives**

J. Ryan McMahon II, County Executive



# Tackling Lead

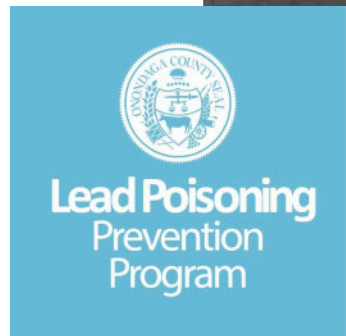
Strategically & Comprehensively

*299 EPA Certified Contractors*

*Mobile Lead Van*

*Over 200 Homes Remediated*

*“Lead It Go”*



# Tackling Lead

Strategically & Comprehensively

*Proposing An Additional  
\$1 Million in Flexible  
Lead Funding*

