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County Executive

**Onondaga County, New York
Recovery Plan Performance Report
July 31, 2026**

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Onondaga County July 31, 2026- Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Onondaga County's 2026 Recovery Plan Performance Report marks the sixth year of progress under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), demonstrating modernization of our infrastructure, investment in our public health, multiple economic development projects, and long-term community resilience. With 17 of 20 ARPA-funded projects now complete, the County has transitioned from recovery to sustained transformation.

Major capital initiatives advanced significantly in 2026. The Onondaga County Aquarium is scheduled to open in September 2026, completing one of the County's largest ARPA-supported economic development projects. Infrastructure upgrades tied to the Micron Technology investment — including industrial wastewater capacity improvements and workforce development pipelines — continued to expand, supporting the region's largest semiconductor manufacturing project to date.

Countywide service improvements also reached durable milestones. Broadband access is now functionally available across most of the county, closing the digital divide for residents and businesses. School-based mental health services, initially expanded with ARPA funding, have transitioned to permanent County support, ensuring long-term access for students. Lead remediation efforts accelerated, with additional employees trained to strengthen capacity for high-risk home interventions.

Use of Funds

Key Highlights

- **Broadband access is now functionally available across most of the county.**
- **School-based mental health services transitioned from ARPA-funded expansion to permanent County-supported operations.**
- **Lead remediation efforts accelerated, with additional employees trained.**
- **The Onondaga County Aquarium is set to open in September 2026.**



Poverty, Infrastructure and Economic Development

Onondaga County advanced from pandemic recovery into long-term transformation, with continued focus on reducing poverty, modernizing infrastructure, and accelerating economic growth. Countywide broadband expansion is now complete, closing the digital divide for many residents. Lead remediation capacity increased with expanded testing, outreach, and hazard reduction programs, while permanent school-based mental health services now support every district.

Significant targeted investments addressed homeless housing and essential services—from the renovated men’s shelter to the Shape-Up for Veterans home repair program—and AI modernization in Social Services improved efficiency and response times for SNAP and HEAP applicants.

Infrastructure improvements included upgraded parks equipment, modernized transportation machinery, rehabilitation of the historic Carnegie Building, and a historic enhancement to roadwork that paved over 210 miles of County roads. Emergency response capabilities were strengthened with specialized rescue equipment.

Economic development accelerated, with major progress at the Micron-supported White Pine Business Park, expanded site readiness and continuing success of the CNY Arts Film Incentive Fund supporting inclusive job growth. The Center for Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing nearing completion, helping to position the region as a leader in intelligent manufacturing. The highly anticipated Onondaga County Aquarium remains on track to open September 2026, anchoring renewed activity at the Inner Harbor.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Equity remains central to the County’s recovery strategy. The County has continued to prioritize low-income residents, seniors, children, and homeless individuals. Programs such as school-based mental health services, the Shape-Up for Veterans home repair initiative, and broadband expansion helped to reduce barriers to opportunity.



Community Engagement

As always, we continue to engage with the public, elected officials our county legislature, other public officials, and constituents as well as local media.

In addition, as needed we update our website that highlights the details of the plan can be accessed at <https://americanrescueplan.ongov.net/>

Labor Practices

All Onondaga County infrastructure projects include a 30% Equal Employment Opportunity labor participation goal as well as a 30% Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) utilization goal. The Onondaga County Office of Diversity and Inclusion have full-time staff that monitors and upholds Equal Employment Opportunity EEO, Minority, Women, Business Enterprises (MWBE), and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) goals. These employees regularly meet with local business groups to help create opportunities for our local workforce and businesses. All work on County infrastructure projects is subject to prevailing wage under Article 8 of the New York State Labor Law. Federally funded projects adhere to goals as specified within the contract.

Use of Evidence

Onondaga County has used evidenced based interventions where appropriate.

Revenue Replacement

In an effort to address the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, New York State took extraordinary and unprecedented actions in the interest of public health. These actions, however, had a severe negative effect on the local economy with Onondaga County being no exception. More specifically, it negatively impacted the state and the local economies and financial condition for 2020 and beyond. The total in loss revenue for the county has exceeded \$245 million as a result of the pandemic for the years of 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.



Performance by Project Category

POVERTY

Broadband- The Digital Divide

Appropriated Amount: \$11,111,820.00

Expended Amount: \$11,111,820.00

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: Complete

Project Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored that reliable broadband internet is a vital resource for communities in the 21st century. From education and healthcare to jobs and agriculture, our future depends on access to the internet. This project addressed the digital divide in our community by expanding broadband access to all areas previously unserved by existing providers. To develop this plan, Onondaga County partnered with the Central New York Regional Planning Board and ECC Technologies, LLC to conduct a community-wide survey in July 2021. A formal RFP was issued, and the contract was awarded to Verizon in 2022. The work on this project was successfully completed.

Onondaga County Lead Initiative

Appropriated Amount: \$3,726,082.00

Expended Amount: \$3,611,397.46

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: More than 90% complete

Project Summary

Onondaga County, like many communities across the country, had been working for years to address ongoing lead issues in its neighborhoods. As a long-standing leader in this effort, the County chose to allocate a portion of its ARPA funds to further advance



hazard reduction. These funds were used to expand testing, implement the “Lead it Go” project, and increase community outreach. The County also addressed lead hazards through the Window and Door Replacement Program, increased funding for community partnerships, supported the remediation of high-cost units, and enhanced lead hazard identification infrastructure.

Men’s Homeless Shelter -Catholic Charities

Appropriated Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Expended Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: Complete

Project Summary

To support the homeless population, Onondaga County completed a \$2 million investment in partnership with Catholic Charities to renovate a men’s homeless shelter in the City of Syracuse. In addition to providing 100 beds for homeless men, the new shelter offered expanded services, including on-site mental health support and a health clinic. The project was completed in 2022.

AI Technology

Appropriated Amount: \$209,412.00

Expended Amount: \$209,412.00

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: Complete

Project Summary

The Department of Social Services-ES used this funding to launch a pilot project with TipCo Automated Services to incorporate an AI-powered EVA phone system, aimed at enhancing employee productivity. The pilot included all three components of EVA within



SNAP/HEAP, the department's largest program area, which receives over 130,000 client calls annually.

EVA Phone answers basic questions such as office hours and business location. Integrated with VENTEK case information, EVA also provided case status updates. The time saved by staff no longer answering routine client calls was redirected toward determining eligibility and processing recertifications.

EVA Companion gives staff easy access to eligibility tools, training materials, and policy resources. This tool fostered greater consistency across the department by reducing varying interpretations of regulations by different supervisors. Staff were directed to consult EVA first before seeking help from a supervisor. This improved consistency and freed supervisors to focus more on staff management and complex client issues.

EVA R&R made outgoing calls to clients to collect information related to applications and recertifications. It then compiled this information and sent it to the IM Worker or IM Specialist for eligibility review and processing. Each call saved approximately eight minutes per worker/specialist, allowing the department to significantly reduce time spent on manual outreach and reallocate efforts toward eligibility determination and recertifications.

EVA also included built-in translation services, reducing the department's reliance on Voiance for phone-based client interactions. (Note: Translate LIVE continued to be used for face-to-face interactions.)

Onondaga County was the first large county to pilot this technology.

Mental Health in Schools

Appropriated Amount: \$5,500,000.00

Expended Amount: \$5,500,000.00

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: Complete

Project Summary



School Based Initiatives Division 2022-2025 Summary Report

School-Based Mental Health Expansion – Original Proposal Summary and Implementation Report

As originally proposed, the School-Based Mental Health Expansion aimed to address the escalating mental health needs of children and youth in Onondaga County schools following the COVID-19 pandemic. Guided by the evidence-based Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework, the initiative focused on implementing a full continuum of supports—universal, targeted, and intensive—directly within schools to ensure all students could access services regardless of geography, insurance status, or clinical history.

2025-2026 Update

Clinics: School based clinics operate in all but two districts (Onondaga Central Schools and Fabius Pompey) The OCS team has partnered with Liberty Resources and the NYS OMH licensing process is almost complete. Fabius is in talks with Liberty now to plan for licensing process to begin.

ACCESS: All districts, 3,087 referrals in School year 2025-2026

Promise Zone:

Promise Zone Student Engagement Specialists were in 64 Schools (12 Districts) with a total intervention count of 366,750. The dates of interventions collected were September 2025 – June 2026

Non-Profit Veterans Initiative

Appropriated Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Expended Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: More than 100% complete



Project Summary

Shape-Up for Veterans provides safe housing assistance to elderly veterans through a home repair program administered by Onondaga County Community Development. Eligible homeowners can apply for help covering the cost of essential home repairs. To qualify, applicants must be veterans who are at least 62 years old, have owned and occupied their home for at least one year, have current property taxes, valid homeowners' insurance, an honorable discharge from the U.S. military, and meet specific household income and size guidelines.

Public Health Fellows

Appropriated Amount: \$229,075.16

Expended Amount: \$229,075.16

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: Complete

Project Summary

We ensured the continuation of essential Public Health Fellow work through 2024 by expanding salary support for approximately 12 key Fellows employed in the Department. These Fellows carried out high-priority initiatives in areas such as maternal health, immigrant and refugee health, early childhood health and education, and increased access to cancer screening services, among other critical efforts. During this period, many Fellows successfully transitioned to new roles supported by NYS Department of Health or Health Department funding or moved into new opportunities and initiatives within the Department and the broader local health and human services community.

Infrastructure

Parks/Facility Funding

Appropriated Amount: \$105,756.97

Expended Amount: \$105,756.97

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Status: Complete

Project Summary

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Onondaga County Parks experienced a significant increase in visitors. To maintain the necessary level of service and improve efficiency for staff, the County used funding to replace outdated parks equipment. This project was successfully completed

Infrastructure Maintenance Equipment

Appropriated Amount: \$1,996,083.00

Expended Amount: \$1,996,083.00

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: Complete

Project Summary

The Onondaga County Department of Transportation used these funds to replace outdated equipment within the department. The funding supported the purchase of road equipment, including pavers, excavators, payloaders, and chippers. Acquiring this equipment enabled the department to operate more effectively and efficiently. The project was completed in 2022.

Carnegie Building Renovations

Appropriated Amount: \$4,000,000.00

Expended Amount: \$4,000,000.00

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: Complete

Project Summary



This \$4 million County project involved the rehabilitation of the historic Carnegie building, which had remained mostly vacant since the Syracuse City School District ceased using it as a special education program site in 2011 and returned it to Onondaga County. The County fully renovated the building to accommodate departmental use and consolidate services. This renovation created additional space for other County departments to expand. Departments relocated to the building included Economic Development, Community Development, and the Syracuse/Onondaga County Planning Agency. This project was completed near the end of 2024.

Road and Bridge Work

Appropriated Amount: \$ 5,000,000.00

Expended Amount: \$ 5,000,000.00

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: Complete

Project Summary

The County made a historic infrastructure investment of an additional \$5M to the overall 2021 Highway Work Plan (\$35M) that resulted in paving over 210 miles of County roads.

Emergency Response

Appropriated Amount: \$214,000.00

Expended Amount: \$214,000.00

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: Complete

Project Summary

Onondaga County utilized ARPA funding to enhance emergency response and rescue capabilities in coordination with local fire departments, EMS agencies, and law enforcement. The County assessed its readiness through training exercises and by reviewing after-action reports from other jurisdictions. This evaluation identified the



need to improve rescue capabilities for individuals trapped or injured in difficult terrain. As a result, the County procured a specialized vehicle capable of operating in snow-covered streets, swamps, rough terrain, icy waters, and remote areas. The vehicle was deployed in partnership with local agencies responsible for leading rescue efforts.

Industrial Wastewater

Appropriated Amount: \$2,094,734.40

Expended Amount: \$2,094,734.40

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: Complete

Project Summary

The Industrial Wastewater Project was undertaken in preparation for the expansion and construction of the semiconductor manufacturing and supplier network that will support this industry. The project will expand capacity to manage increased wastewater flow from new facilities and the overall growth of industrial operations in this area of Onondaga County.

Economic Development

CNY Arts Film Incentives

Appropriated Amount: \$5,000,000.00

Expended Amount: \$3,618,698.98

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: More than 50% complete

Project Summary

The CNY Arts Film Incentive Fund is an economic development initiative designed to award production incentives to qualified film projects with the goal of stimulating the



local economy, expanding workforce opportunities, increasing filmmaking capacity, and showcasing the benefits of filming in Central New York. In addition to promoting economic revitalization, the program specifically supports the growth of the cultural sector and the development of a sustainable local film industry that can continue attracting filmmakers beyond the incentive period. The program also offers incentive bonuses for career development and promotes inclusion by supporting projects from underrepresented or minority communities and veterans. This project remains ongoing.

Site Development & Workforce Incentives

Appropriated Amount: \$19,729,708.62

Expended Amount: \$19,729,708.62

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: Complete

Project Summary

To remain competitive, stimulate economic development, and encourage job creation and retention, Onondaga County partnered with the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency (OCIDA) to advance the Agency's goals and mission by establishing a revolving loan fund. Economic development opportunities advanced by OCIDA helped fuel and accelerate economic welfare, general prosperity, and workforce development for the benefit of the Onondaga County community. The loan from Onondaga County to OCIDA was used, as needed, to support asset development and remediation, acquire and market project sites to a broader range of businesses, attract high-tech industries, and create high-paying jobs for the County's diverse population. OCIDA agreed to reimburse Onondaga County using agency fees collected from projects that received financial assistance through tax abatements.

White Pine Business Park Development

Appropriated Amount: \$8,886,493.18

Expended Amount: \$8,886,493.18



Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Status: Complete

Project Summary

Onondaga County used these funds to support development at the White Pine Business Park in preparation for the recently announced \$100 billion Micron semiconductor manufacturing complex. This once-in-a-lifetime, transformational economic development opportunity was expected to reshape the County over the next 20 years. The project was projected to create over 9,000 on-site jobs and generate an additional 40,000 spin-off jobs in the region. The funds were used to support essential physical infrastructure improvements, including road upgrades and site clearing, as well as critical workforce and community infrastructure enhancements.

Center for Advanced Manufacturing

Appropriated Amount: \$10,000,000.00
Expended Amount: \$7,500,000.00
Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Status: more than 75%

Project Summary

The Center for Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing (CASM) at Syracuse University brings together expertise in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, process engineering, and robotics to advance the science of advanced manufacturing. Advances in semiconductor manufacturing, specifically, are required for the United States to compete globally.

CASM is an interdisciplinary center situated primarily within the College of Engineering and Computer Science and physically centered at the Center for Science and Technology. CASM will position Syracuse and Central New York as a global leader in research, education, and applications of process engineering automation, and the intelligent manufacturing of semiconductors.

The center will generate the educational and research outcomes required to support the semiconductor and supply-chain workforce in the U.S. and drive associated process and practice innovation into the future. Reflecting its AI and advanced manufacturing



focus, CASM complements Syracuse University's new AI degree programs launching in Fall 2026 — including the College of Engineering and Computer Science's B.S. and M.S. in Artificial Intelligence Science, whose AI-hardware paths are directly relevant to semiconductor and advanced-manufacturing careers.

CASM represents Syracuse University's premier advanced manufacturing teaching and research facility. This new state-of-the-art facility will support cutting-edge scholarship and hands-on education that integrates cyber-physical systems, machine learning, artificial intelligence, AI-enabled manufacturing, 5G wireless, and human-robot collaborative environments into a program of activities situated within an intelligent manufacturing context. Central to the U.S. semiconductor industry's competitive advantage is the ability to deliver its products through the highest-quality, most cost-effective manufacturing processes possible. This imperative extends beyond chip design, to optimizing every aspect of the manufacturing process. The center will be the first of its kind in the region and one of the first of its kind in the entire U.S. system of higher education, training students in the human-robot interaction skills critical to the advanced semiconductor industry and its supply chain.

CASM also leverages Syracuse University's R&D expertise in quantum science. The future of semiconductor manufacturing points toward the convergence of chips and quantum technology — as illustrated by quantum computing and networking company IonQ's recent acquisition of U.S. semiconductor foundry SkyWater Technology. CASM's research laboratories will include two new clean rooms in the nearby Physics Building. The first will host the Semiconductor Thermal Noise Testbed — supported by a federal Community Project Funding of more than \$1 million in the FY2026 Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill, secured by Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and Representative John Mannion — advancing ultra-low-thermal-noise materials for quantum sensing and semiconductor-on-glass substrate technology. The second, a new R&D core facility for advanced silicon research, precision metrology, and surface science, will house advanced lithography and packaging instrumentation — a Heidelberg Instruments μ MLA maskless aligner and NanoFrazor (both donated to Syracuse University by Heidelberg Instruments) and a Hesse Bondjet BJ855 Large-Area Wedge Bonder funded by New York State. Together these capabilities tie the center's semiconductor-manufacturing mission to Syracuse's cutting-edge work in surface science and quantum-computing hardware — fields with substantial overlap with applied semiconductor research.

Access to major equipment is a well-known barrier to growth across the semiconductor supply chain, particularly for small businesses. Through the NYSTAR- and EDA-supported



NY SMART I-Corridor Collaboration and Commercialization Center (C3), which Syracuse University leads, this instrumentation will be made available to New York companies at subsidized rates, helping firms advance product development, forging university–industry connections, and supporting economic development across New York State. The same instrumentation will also support CASM's student training and demonstrations for visitors.

The CASM project is substantially complete: construction is finished and technology installation is largely in place, with some specialized equipment deliveries continuing in summer 2026. The center now features robotics to support manufacturing demonstrations for K-12 students, degrees that develop workforce in the advanced manufacturing space for college students, and research initiatives for Syracuse University faculty, students, and research colleagues in the region. An opening event is expected during the Fall 2026 semester.

Lakefront Development Study

Appropriated Amount: \$129,979.72

Expended Amount: \$129,979.72

Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Status: Complete

Project Summary

Onondaga County Parks conducted a market feasibility study to gauge support for an urban tourism and economic development project to be built in Onondaga County. The study evaluated potential market support, usage forecasts, and project financial performance. It also provided critical guidance for design and operations. The consultant team leading this study also sought input from various community members/groups. This study was completed in 2022.

Aquarium

Appropriated Amount: \$6,616,643.20

Expended Amount: \$6,616,643.20



Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Status: Complete

Project Summary

The Onondaga County Aquarium is in the process of development and will be a state-of-the-art facility located on the bank of the Syracuse Inner Harbor. This approximately 76,000 sq ft facility will hold up to 550,000 gallons of water to showcase 21 signature exhibits and 9-10 jewel tanks. The saltwater and freshwater exhibits will be interactive, educational, and entertaining. The Aquarium is slated to open in September 2026.

Restore

Appropriated Amount: \$1,250,000.00
Expended Amount: \$1,250,000.00
Source of Funds: 6. Revenue Replacement
Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services
Status: Complete

Project Summary

Funding from Restore was used to support housing initiatives and economic development projects currently proposed in the inner harbor. Providing assistance in the harbor will be vital to turning it into a strong economic and residential district.

Project inventory:

Projects can be found on this link:
<https://americanrescueplan.ongov.net/stimulus-projects/>

Reports can be found on this link
<https://americanrescueplan.ongov.net/reports/>