



THE ASSEMBLY
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Ways and Means

July 27, 2022

Hon. Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive
39 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614

Dear County Executive Bello,

I am writing in support of the Reentry Association of WNY's (RAWNY) request for "Bring Monroe Back" recovery funding for their Reentry One-Stop program. The purpose of Reentry One-Stop is to coordinate social and economic support services for the over 2,000 men and women returning to our community from incarceration each year. Reentry One-Stop will have a transformational impact on reducing recidivism rates in our community by closing current support services gaps and overcoming the obstacles men and women released from prison experience while trying to attain new beginnings in our county.

Reentry One-stop is an inclusive collaborative model that connects RAWNY with community-based service providers to coordinate and improve reentry systems in Monroe County. This single point of access system is an efficient and effective means to helping individuals released from jail or prison rejoin society. Successful reentry programs improve community safety by reducing recidivism rates and providing economic benefits reaped from growing our number of stable, productive households.

A coordinated response model is critical to overcoming the daily challenges confronting people in re-entry. These challenges can include finding and maintaining a job, accessing personal documents, transportation, technology (including a cell phone), childcare, housing, health care or treatment or even finding where to grocery shop or how to build a wardrobe. In the past, Monroe County had nonprofits and faith-based groups that offered a supportive network of transitional resources. Many of those resources have faded, leaving a very vulnerable at-risk population underserved.

RAWNY's Reentry One-stop program would be a timely and suitable recipient of Bring Monroe Back ARPA funding. Your careful consideration of their request is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Harry B. Bronson
Member of Assembly