

PROBATION - 3140

MISSION

The mission of the Probation Department is to ensure the safety of Albany County residents by supervising all juvenile and adult clients on probation and helping them become responsible, productive and law-abiding members of the community.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

The Albany County Probation Department provides a State mandated service for which the County receives State aid. The Probation Department provides services in three major areas to meet its mandate:

Intake Diversion, which acts as a screening process to determine the appropriateness of PINS (Person in Need of Supervision) and JD (Juvenile Delinquent) cases for which the local Family Court has jurisdiction, and attempts to divert certain cases from formal Family Court processing;

Pre-Sentence Pre-Dispositional Investigation, which produce a written document of an individual's legal and social history subsequent to a conviction in criminal court or an adjudication in Family Court; and

Supervision of both adults and juveniles placed on probation as a sentence/disposition imposed by a Criminal Court or Family Court.

Through the Supervision program, probation services provides the probationer with mandated opportunities for rehabilitation, protection to the community and is a cost effective deterrent to incarceration and/or out of home residential placement.

The cost of providing probation supervision is less than \$2,000 per probationer per year as compared to \$60,000-\$120,000 per individual per year for juveniles sentenced to residential treatment/placement, and approximately \$56,000 per individual per year for adults who are incarcerated in state prison and local jails. Probation is the most cost effective sanction available to the Courts, providing local taxpayers significant financial savings each year.

As part of Supervision, Probation makes an arrest when a probationer is in violation or has an outstanding warrant from a court, for other reasons. The Department's biggest training focus is on staff safety. This safety awareness is necessary considering the caseload size and the types of offenders being sentenced to probation.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2010 Executive Budget reflects reductions in State revenues of approximately \$218,000. The decrease primarily reflects the recent downward trends in expected State aid for 2010 and miscellaneous adjustments related to decreased program expenses that are State reimbursable. The decrease of \$52,930 in appropriations combined with the revenue loss yields a County share increase of 2.4 percent in the Department.
- Personal service savings proposed in this Budget requires the elimination of two filled positions.
- Two Probation Officers will be funded through a pending Federal Stimulus Grant (ARRA) to be used to cope with increased caseload due to the Rockefeller Drug Law Reform. These positions were eligible to receive funding given the grant required that these monies be used to avoid additional layoffs.
- The Department had five individuals participate in the Voluntary Separation Incentive: one Probation Supervisor, two Probation Officers and two Clerks. In addition, two vacant Probation Officers and one vacant part-time Probation Officer were eliminated. The Secretary II title was reclassified to Senior Keyboard Specialist to reflect current job functions and civil service rules.
- The Executive Budget proposes decreasing equipment expenses based on various equipment purchases being completed in the current 2009 budget. Program adjustments are made to the remaining equipment lines, including computer equipment expenses, which are transferred to the Division of Information Services.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROBATION - 3140

Account	Description	2008 Expended	2009 Adjusted	2010 Proposed	2009-10 Change	2009-10 Percent Change
Appropriations						
Probation -(3140)						
	Personal Services	\$5,719,500	\$5,966,346	\$5,770,216	(\$196,130)	-3.3%
	Equipment	\$14,702	\$29,086	\$588	(\$28,498)	-98.0%
	Contractual Expenses	\$998,754	\$1,279,286	\$1,125,752	(\$153,534)	-12.0%
	Fringe Benefits	\$1,822,168	\$1,933,864	\$2,259,096	\$325,232	16.8%
	Probation -(3140)	\$8,555,124	\$9,208,582	\$9,155,652	(\$52,930)	-0.6%
	Appropriations	\$8,555,124	\$9,208,582	\$9,155,652	(\$52,930)	-0.6%
Revenue						
	Probation -(3140)	(\$2,319,911)	(\$2,379,765)	(\$2,160,994)	\$218,771	-9.2%
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	County Share	\$6,235,213	\$6,828,817	\$6,994,658	\$165,841	2.4%