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# Onondaga County, New York Recovery Plan Performance Report July 31, 2023





# State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

## Onondaga County July 31, 2023- Recovery Plan

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## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### **Executive Summary**

Over the past three years Onondaga County has worked strategically to implement plans to expedite our economic recovery due to hardships caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. To date, we have made tremendous progress in completing a number of significant projects. Our departments continue to work in partnership with local not-for-profits, businesses, schools and our medical staff to address the needs of our community. Through these efforts, we were able to make significant improvements to our infrastructure, our economy and address our social services needs.

At this time, we are also working to advance a transformational economic development project that will monumentally impact our local economy for generations to come. Through the incredible efforts of the county team, Micron Technology selected Onondaga County to make the largest investment in the history of the United States. These four new megafabs and their supply chain partners will create up to 50,000 jobs in our community.

Onondaga County will focus on completing several of our highly successful investments in addressing issues in mental health, ensuring county-wide broadband access, and in neighborhood revitalization projects. These plans were inspired and developed through our core platform areas in poverty, infrastructure and economic development.

#### **Poverty**

Onondaga County will continue its efforts to lift people out of poverty through initiatives that include our \$15 million broadband project that ensures broadband access for all; and the continuation of our investment of \$5.5 million allocation to address mental health issues of our children and families; \$3.7M allocation to assist our local residents with homes repairs and allotted an additional \$1 million to specifically assist our Veterans in that program.

#### **Infrastructure**

We have nearly completed all the infrastructure projects we have undertaken since the onset on this process. Currently, we are finalizing construction at our county owned Carnegie building that will create a one-stop shop for the community for economic development. This facility is now the home of employees from our Economic Development, Community Development and Planning departments to allow for better collaboration.



## **Economic Development**

Over the past year, we have been heavily focused on supporting projects that will have a long-term impact on our economy. By far, our biggest and most transformational project is Micron Technology that will be located in the town of Clay in Onondaga County.

Through the dedicated work of our economic development team, we have continued to develop shovel ready sites, while also actively working with our legislators to gain approval for the pursuit of other significant opportunities to aid in our economic development recovery.

We are also continuing our highly successful collaboration with CNY Arts through our CNY Film Incentive Fund. This partnership has been invaluable in providing job opportunities for our underserved communities, minorities and veterans, as well as new revenue for our hotels and restaurants and retail stores.

The Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency revolving loan fund continues to provide incentives to local businesses. This fund remains critical, as it provides our team with the flexibility to move quickly with companies interested in doing transformative economic development projects in our community.

These funds have provided us with a once in a generation opportunity to secure monumental economic development opportunities that are inclusive of everyone. Our commitment remains steadfast to provide paths towards economic prosperity for everyone in our community.

## **Use of Funds**


### **Poverty**

### **Broadband**

We will continue to invest in broadband accessibility which was a key issue highlighted during the pandemic. During the pandemic sections of our county struggled with the lack of access to internet that effected our children's education and our residents jobs. Over the last year, Onondaga County has been able to advance this project and believe most if not all of our community members will have access to broadband by the end of 2024-2025.

### **Veterans Initiative**

Our Shape-Up for Veterans program is underway and is already providing safe housing assistance for elderly Veterans. This home repair program, administered by Onondaga County



Community Development assists eligible veteran homeowners in covering costs of necessary home repairs. To be eligible, Veterans must fit this criterion; be at least 62 years of age, occupy their home for at least one year, be current on their property taxes, have valid homeowners' insurance, honorably served in the US Military and their household size and income that falls within specific guidelines.

### **Lead initiative**

Onondaga County, like many other communities across the country, has been working for years to address the ongoing lead issues in our neighborhoods. The county has always been a leader in this issue and recently decided to reallocate some ARPA funds to work toward resolving it. This money will now be used to increase testing, implement our “Lead it Go project”, and provide for additional community outreach. We are also addressing lead hazards in the community through the Window and Door Replacement Program, by increasing our community partnership funding, through support of remediation of high-cost units and by enhancing lead hazard identification infrastructure.

### **Mental Health in Schools**

The School Based Initiatives Expansion of Mental Health supports children and youth across the county, in every school, and along all levels of need. Addressing the growing and diverse needs of the youth and families of Onondaga County, the expansion implements a Multi-Tiered System of Support model, based in values of culturally inclusive, trauma-informed, and youth-centered supports. In the 2nd year of implementation, 15 Onondaga County School Districts have expanded mental health supports through Promise Zone Student Engagement Specialists (Tier 1-Universal Support); ACCESS School Liaisons (Tier 2 Support), and School Based Mental Health Clinics (Tier 3 Support). As the 2022-2023 school year closed, the division is assessing a variety of aspects of the initial implementation to inform improvements for the 2023-2024 school year. Key areas of improvement for Year 2 include:

- The county established the “School Based Mental Health Steering Committee” which is a County-wide inter-district collaboration on shared initiatives. This benefits families and youth across the region with a focus on such activities as Community Schools programming, Trauma, Illness, & Grief networks, and shared crisis prevention, intervention, and postvention resources.
- The management level of the project was restructured to increase supervision support to the Promise Zone program as well as provide a dedicated position to work closely with Onondaga Cortland Madison BOCES.
- The county in partnership with Onondaga Cortland Madison BOCES implemented professional development focusing on culturally inclusive and trauma informed Multi Tiered Systems of Support.

## A. Public Health

- The funds are supporting the implementation of staffing and school-based supports to address the public health impact of the pandemic as evidenced by local mental health indicators, such as increased number of youth exhibiting needs for mental health crisis intervention (CPEP).
- Beginning in April 2020, the proportion of children’s mental health–related ED visits among all pediatric ED visits increased and remained elevated. Compared with 2019, the proportion of mental health–related visits for children aged 5–11 and 12–17 years increased approximately 24% and 31%, respectively.

## Infrastructure

We have completed the majority of our infrastructure work, having closed out our road and bridge work, replaced our outdated and inefficient infrastructure equipment in our Department of Transportation, updated our parks equipment and completed our lakefront development study.

The last remaining project is the Carnegie building renovations. Our facilities team has continued their work on the rehabilitation of our historic Carnegie Building located in our vibrant and growing downtown. Onondaga County has neatly completed the necessary renovations, breathing life back into the building. Staying true to its intended purpose of remaining a building accessible to the public, the county intends to bring together various departments to make this a one-stop-shop for developers and others seeking to do business in Onondaga County. Onondaga County Economic Development, Onondaga County Community Development, and the Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency have already relocated to this location. This project is on track to be completed in the Fall of 2023.



## Economic Development

Every day we continue to work tirelessly on bringing our local economy back to the momentum we had right before we were struck by the pandemic. At that time, Onondaga County was thriving, and we were at the start of several transformational projects that would have changed the entire landscape of our community. Throughout the pandemic, we continued to work hard to compete for and advance several large economic development projects that we had been actively pursuing prior to the pandemic. We continue to work diligently with our local community partners and our local business to ensure our community’s economic success. Since

last year, we have provided funds to our local IDA to further develop shovel ready properties, so that projects are quick to come online. In addition, our CNY Film fund has taken off, providing jobs to our local minority, women, and veterans communities. We also continue to make efforts to provide transportation solutions, training, and job opportunities for our residents.

### **The Micron Technology Project**

The American Rescue Funds have been a catalyst in securing one of the most exciting economic development opportunities in American history. Onondaga County is poised to become a major player in the semi-conductor world.

Onondaga County is a community that has a strong and proud history in manufacturing, and it is that history that has poised us for the next chapter of our comeback story. Our team has done the important and difficult work that made the White Pine Business Park successful in securing the largest economic development investment in American history with the Micron



Technology project. While the investment by Micron has validated to the rest of the country and the world that Onondaga County is the home for the next generation of manufacturing, our work will not end there. We must take advantage of this historic investment and the undeniable stimulus it will offer for future investment and growth in our community. Our county has a wide variety of locations that are ripe for the necessary investments to lure additional manufacturing opportunities of all kinds. Onondaga County remains committed to ensuring that our entire county, from the urban core to our rural communities and everything in between has the opportunity to take part in this next chapter of our economic comeback. Micron intends to build up to four semiconductor fabrication plants that will result in the creation 9000 Micron jobs and 40,000 supply chain jobs over the next 20 years.

### **Site Development**

We continue to work with the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency (OCIDA) to advance the Agency’s goals and mission by utilizing a revolving loan fund. Economic development opportunities advanced by OCIDA are being used to fuel and accelerate the economic progress, general prosperity, and workforce development for the benefit of the Onondaga County community. The loan from Onondaga County to OCIDA is was used, as needed, to advance, expand and support asset development and remediation; acquire and market project sites to a broader scope of businesses; attract high tech industries; and create high paying, quality jobs for

our diverse citizenry. OCIDA will reimburse Onondaga County from the Agency fees it collects from the projects receiving financial assistance.

### **Central New York Film Incentive Fund**

The Onondaga County Production Incentives for Movies and Entertainment Development (PRIMED) program\_Rebate Program has seen steady success over 2022 with over \$4 million dollars of local spending while disbursing just \$1.1 million. In 2023 PRIMED is continuing to look for more opportunities to grow the local industry outside of just feature film development.

Last year Primed generated over 62,121 work hours in Onondaga County for County residence. This is equivalent to over 29.78 Full time Equivalent (FTE) for an entire year with a yearly salary of \$82,445. Most film productions will be filming for a months' time and if measured on a monthly basis the total time equates to over 388.23 FTEs per month with a monthly salary of \$6,324.



American High and Hulu have committed to another slate of films to be filmed locally in Onondaga County and are committed to shoot 2 films this year. However, the state of the writer's strike has limited the amount of feature film productions headed to the county. Now with SAG Actor strike that second production will most likely be delayed.

The Program however has now received promising applicants for a local cooking and lifestyle TV show that has nationwide syndication and a few other low budget independent films.


### **Promoting equitable outcomes**

Promoting equitable outcomes is a critical component to ensuring equal opportunities to all residents within a community. The COVID 19 pandemic impacted all our county residents, but particularly our low income, homeless residents, seniors and our children. We identified specific problems and are continuing to address these issues through targeted projects including our Mental Health in Schools initiative, the CNY Film Fund incentive, and our broadband for all project.

### **Mental Health Services in Schools**

The Expansion of School Based Mental Health Supports brings mental health staff and supports to rural and small school districts that do not receive outside resources as often as larger districts and schools closer to city-centers. The outcomes of the Expansion of School Based Mental Health Supports focus on reaching universal levels of service and access to social and





mental health supports and interventions for all school aged children and youth and their families. Another projected outcome is targeted reduction in behavioral health disparities and increase in social emotional well-being for students of color in suburban school districts and all students in rural school districts.


People who live in impoverished neighborhoods have disproportionately felt the negative impact of the COVID pandemic. Children of color, and children who live in impoverished neighborhoods have, overall, poorer behavioral health outcomes than their white, more affluent counterparts. Children living in poverty, who are disproportionately of color or live in very rural communities, were less likely to have access to technology that would keep them connected to the outside world during the isolation of the COVID 19 pandemic. Isolation for these children, and all children, led to an increase in mental health concerns, including feelings of depression, anxiety, and loneliness.

As part of the Expansion of School Based Mental Health Supports, we have strategically recruited, hired, and trained non-clinical Black professionals and professionals of color to address under-representation of staff of color in school communities. Forty-one Student Engagement Specialists, who support social emotional health at the Tier 1 level, were hired, with over 50% being staff of color. The placement of staff of color in suburban and rural districts, where the students of color see little to no representation among school staff, supports engagement of those students and families with school-based supports as the staff of color act as credible messengers in building bridges between communities of color and formal mental health treatment and support.

As we have found through our significant investment in school-based clinics for the last twenty years, co-location of outpatient children’s mental health care within the school setting is an approach that advances access to quality behavioral healthcare and improves academic outcomes. This partnership provides a unique opportunity to identify those children and families who might not otherwise seek, or have access to, treatment and strengthens the capacity for earlier recognition and treatment options. Co-location fosters an atmosphere that recognizes the interconnectedness between education and mental health and paves the way to improved outcomes.

The first step of the Expansion planning included dialogues with each partnering school district. As primary partners in this project, each school district is supporting the communication of the services to their families, students, staff, and stakeholders. Each school district tailors their communication to meet the unique needs of their school community. Additionally, new Promise Zone Student Engagement Specialists work from school buildings, attending school-community events to help promote opportunities for their support, to be visible and accessible to the communities they serve.

All students are equally able to access the supports provided through the Promise Zone and ACCESS Liaisons programs. There are no administrative requirements that would result in



disparities in access to services or eligibility. While this funding supports the start-up costs of the School Based Clinics, the medical insurance construct may make the clinical services cost-prohibitive for some individuals.

The addition of the ACCESS School Liaisons, made possible through use of available funds, afford direct connection to community-based resources that can eliminate barriers to success in home, school, and community success for students and families living in rural communities.

### **Central New York Film Incentive Fund**


The Onondaga County Production Incentives for Movies and Entertainment Development (PRIMED) program is designed to incentivize professional filmmaking activity in Onondaga County for the purpose of economic development. This program provides a monetary rebate on qualified expenses for productions that generate professional theatrical movies, television pilots and high-end commercial filming activity in Onondaga County. Productions are anticipated to average between \$600,000 to \$3,000,000 in our locality through a typical 30-day production cycle for principal photography for each production. Most of the productions bring highly sought out-of-state revenue to the region, generating new economic activity for our businesses and constituents. This vital source of economic activity will help keep our local artists, craftspeople and industry professionals working when they are still severely underemployed or unemployed due to the pandemic.

PRIMED also provides additional financial incentives for hiring local residents from underserved communities, particularly minorities, as well as workforce development opportunities for college students and our region's 30,000+ military veterans. At a time when many businesses are struggling to remain open, the revenue from film productions is giving relief to local hotels, restaurants, craft services, home hardware centers, car rental companies, retail stores and many other industry-related service companies.

The projected impact for PRIMED comes from a similar state-funded grant that supported seven feature-length films through 2020. These films generated over 100,000 labor hours for Central New York residents and each production created, on average, 65 full-time-equivalent jobs for the productions locally. We anticipate the budgets of the productions will continue to get larger as on-location filming continues to grow in popularity due to New York's competitive film tax credit program. This funding will help to generate the needed sources for new revenue for local businesses while also employing our local creatives, technicians, administrators, and other professionals in supporting industries.

### **Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**

Work is well underway to address the elimination of the digital divide in our urban and rural communities that became a clear issue during the COVID-19 pandemic. The onset of the pandemic exponentially increased the need for broadband services for most businesses and



education institutions either through supporting or requiring remote work and schooling. COVID-19 forced many aspects of our daily lives online, such as, virtual learning, working from home, online shopping, telemedicine, and simply staying connected to friends, family and colleagues. A lack of broadband access puts individuals and businesses at a huge disadvantage in succeeding either in school or in business. Onondaga County has made it a priority to ensure equal access to broadband is a priority for all residents of our county.

Onondaga County awarded a contract to internet service provider Verizon to build out fiber optics wiring to all the unserved and underserved areas within Onondaga County. This project is underway and we expect this project to be completed in 2025.

## **Community Engagement**

Once again, we have continued our engagement with the elected officials and the public including but not limited to conversations with our county legislature, direct meetings with other public officials, and answering questions proposed by our constituents, community newspaper and news stations.

In addition, we continue to update our on-line website that highlights the details of the plan and will provide periodic updates on expenditures. The link is located on both the Onondaga County Executive and Onondaga County main websites. The website can be accessed at <https://americanrescueplan.ongov.net/>

## **Labor Practices**

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 employs three full-time staff to monitor and uphold 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 will use evidenced based interventions where appropriate.



## Broadband: Last Mile Project

Onondaga County's broadband initiative supports Project Demographic Distribution (for Low Income Communities). Our main focus is to build infrastructure and high-speed internet services to the unserved areas of our county, but this project will also bring high speed internet, including low-income plans to lower income residents of our rural communities.

All three regions within our Broadband Project are progressing. The Northwest Region will likely be completed first due an existing Central Office presence in that area. We are awaiting right of way approvals from an area in our Southwest Region. Permitting has gone well at other areas within the county.

To date approximately 33 miles of fiber has been run (175,606 ft) and about 50% of all unserved addresses are ready for fiber to be run down the respective roads.

Speeds/pricing tiers to be offered, including the speed/pricing of its affordability offering

- Onondaga released an RFP where minimum of 100 Mbps by 100 Mbps speed options were required of the awarded vendor(s) providing internet service
- The County Broadband Project was awarded to Verizon to build out fiber infrastructure and provide broadband service to residents and businesses that are unserved
- Low-income internet offerings will be available for eligible residents

Technology to be deployed

- Fiberoptics internet with a possibility of high-speed wireless technology where fiber runs are cost prohibitive largely due to terrain

Miles of Fiber

- A minimum of 193 miles of fiber will be run to address gaps where fiber or coaxial cable does not exist. Additionally, it is anticipated that dozens of more miles will have to be run for contiguous connectivity to Network Operation Centers / Colocations.


Number of households (based on unserved survey)

Tribal Lands: 306 - 376

Non-Tribal Lands: 863 – 1027

Number of households with access to minimum speed standard of reliable 100 Mbps symmetrical upload and download: 1169 – 1400

The number of households with access to minimum speed standard of reliable 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload: 1169 – 1400 **Note:** 100 Mbps symmetrical upload and download will be a minimum requirement of the RFP



The number of institutions and businesses (broken out by institutions on Tribal lands and those not on Tribal Lands) projected to have increased access to broadband meeting the minimum speed standards in areas that previously lacked access to service of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload, in each of the following categories: business, small business, elementary school, secondary school, higher education institution, library, healthcare facility, and public safety organization. **This data is not currently available.**

### **Mental Health Clinics in schools**

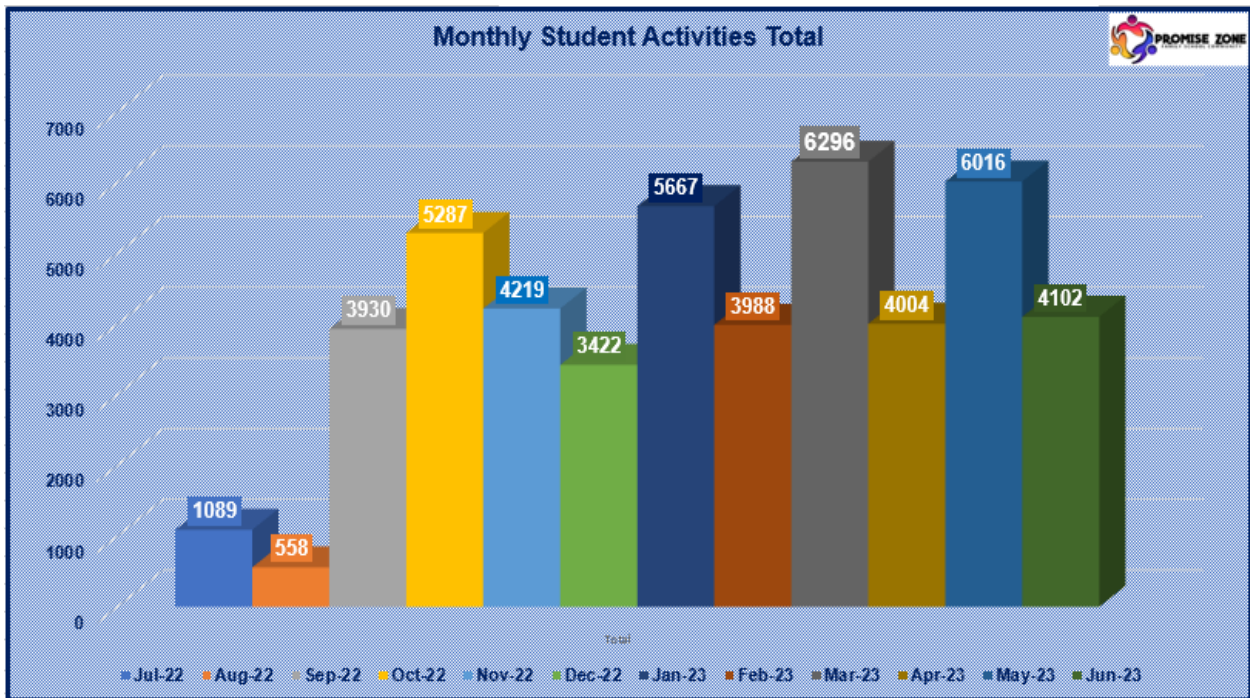
The supports included in the Expansion of School Based Mental Health Supports were determined through the evidence based Multi-Tiered System of Support framework. MTSS is an evidence-based framework for effectively integrating multiple systems and services to simultaneously address students' academic achievement, behavior, and social-emotional well-being. The MTSS framework, recognizes that the successful implementation of intensive individualized interventions at the highest Tier 3 is enhanced by the successful implementation of Tier 1 (universal) and Tier 2 (targeted) supports and interventions. The funds will support the start ups of School-Based Mental Health clinics, a Tier 3 support, as well as staffing Tier 1 and 2 supports through the Promise Zone Student Engagement Specialists and the ACCESS Liaisons. A significant portion of the mental health interventions used by the clinicians are delivered following an evidence-based protocol to fidelity. (e.g., Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy), while Promise Zone specialists are also trained in a variety of Evidence Based interventions including Collaborative Problem Solving, Trauma Informed Practices, and other school-based interventions.

### **Performance Report**

The Expansion of School Based Mental Health supports as a new project in Onondaga County schools will monitor progress and success of implementation by tracking the following:

- 64 schools continued to have Access Liaison support from 26 liaisons
- 2,363 referrals were received through the school based referral process
- 14 new school based clinics were added to the 32 Clinics that opened last year for a total of 46 new clinics in 15 district in the last two years, including two new districts (Tully and Lafayette) that were not served last year. With our most current point in time data, 763 youth were being served at these clinics (405 at Helio, 205 at Liberty, 153 at ARISE).
- **56 schools in 15** Onondaga County Districts have Promise Zone Student Engagement Specialists due to the Expansion
  - 41 FTE Promise Zone Specialists have been allocated to support these 57 schools, as some roles are split between buildings within districts.
  - In School Year 2024, an there will be one district that adds 3 Promise Zone Specialists this support to their buildings.

- Promise Zone Outcome Data from July 2022 – June 2023  
(During the months July – August, specialists supported summer programming for youth. The official 2022-2023 school year began in September.)
- **7,508 individual youth** served by Promise Zone Student Engagement Specialists
- **119,191** Interventions implemented with youth by PZ Student Engagement Specialists
- Interventions defined as direct support provided to a student or group of students: Check-ins, Restorative Conversations and Circles, De-Escalations, Skills Groups, and Supportive Interactions
- **1,119** Family Contacts
- **17,077** Faculty/School Personnel Consultations and Support Meetings



### What Clinicians Do:

Clinicians provide in-school behavioral health assessment, diagnosis, and ongoing symptom reduction treatment. They serve as a team member in identifying techniques to support the child in different settings (classroom, home, cafeteria). This strategy allows for ongoing care of district children while minimizing missed instruction time.

### Tier 2: ACCESS Liaisons

<b>Provided by</b>	ACCESS -Coordinated Care Services Inc, on behalf of Onondaga County
<b>Area Supported</b>	All Districts – Tier 2-3

### What Liaisons Do:

Establish relationships with schools and take referrals to support children and families when child welfare concerns are present, but the issues do not rise to the level of calling the CPS hotline. Work to assess, support, and plan with children and families experiencing social and emotional challenges. Families can self-refer with concerns. Provide technical assistance/consultation to school staff when challenged with where to go next with cases.

### Tier 1: Promise Zone Student Engagement Specialists

<b>Provided by</b>	Coordinated Care Services Inc, on behalf of Onondaga County
<b>Area Supported</b>	All Districts – Tier 1 and 2

### What Student Engagement Specialists Do:

Expand/extend current student supports under the direction of Social worker, psychologist, or counselor. Intervene with children in school setting that are experiencing social/emotional challenges through one to one and group settings. Teach children skills to manage emotions, use expressive language, and deepen relationships. Allows kids ability to stay in class and be ready to learn.

## Revenue Replacement

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the dramatic steps taken by New York State to address it negatively impacted the state and the local economies and financial condition for 2020 and beyond. The total in loss revenue for the county of over \$95 million as a result of the pandemic for the years of 2020, 2021, and 2022.

## Moving Forward

Onondaga County has made great progress over the past several years and with our focus now on an inclusive economic recovery, we are well on our way to putting the issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic behind us. It's an exciting time in our history with endless opportunities on the horizon. We are thankful that the American Rescue Funds have propelled us into a once in a generation opportunity and we look forward to what is to come.

## Project inventory:

Projects can be found on this link:

<https://americanrescueplan.ongov.net/stimulus-projects/>