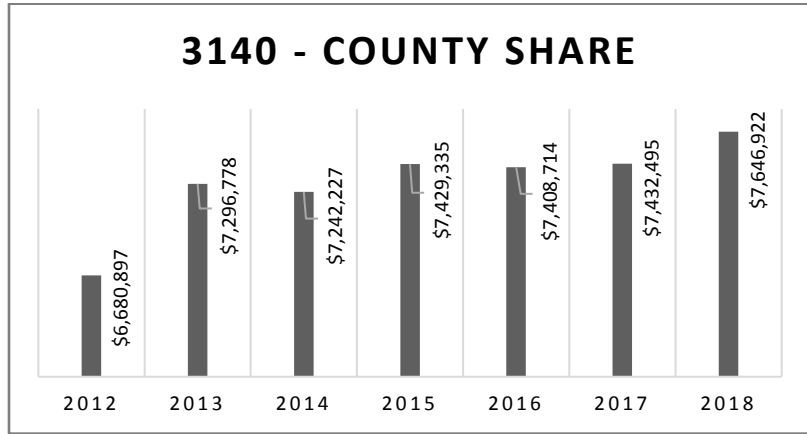


PROBATION

3140



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Albany County Probation Department is threefold. The Department is committed to providing quality services to all courts in Albany County by conducting Pre-Sentence and Pre-Disposition Investigations, Intake and Diversion Programs, supervising adult and juvenile offenders at levels determined by validated risk assessment tools, and by providing and participating in alternative sentencing programs. The Department also serves the community by including the victims of offender's crime in investigation, case planning and supervision. The Department also collects court imposed financial obligations such as restitution, court surcharges, and certain offender fees. Finally, the Department is committed to holding offenders accountable through the employment of graduated sanctions, as well as providing for and referral to skill-building programs and services that emphasize self-efficacy and positive social adjustment. The Department also looks to employ merit credits as incentives for positive community adjustment and as a reward for sustained and measurable achievements.

WHO WE SERVE

We serve all Criminal Courts of Albany County, as well as the Family Court. Once a defendant/juvenile appears in court, a Pre-Sentence Report (PSI)/Pre Dispositional Investigation Report (PDI) report may be ordered, which we are required to complete. In 2016 we completed 131 Family Court ordered Investigations and 1769 Criminal Court Investigations. Once the report is completed offenders may be sentenced to Probation as a juvenile or an adult. Juvenile Probation supervision is generally for one year and may be extended for an additional year. adult sentences range from one, three, five, six, ten years, or lifetime sentences of probation. The amount of probationers may vary monthly, but Probation generally averages 2600 – 2800 adult offenders at any given time. Juvenile Services averages 150 persons monthly under court order and another 500 diverted from Family Court yearly. Adult Probation Officers generally carry regular supervision caseloads of less than 100. Probation also has specialized caseloads which average between 40 -60 probationers. These caseloads include Drug Court, DWI Offenders, Sex Offenders, Domestic Violence Offenders, Mental Health Probationers, Veteran Probationers and Greatest Risk Probationers. Specialized caseloads require more intensive supervision of probationers who are at a higher risk of recidivism. Probation Officers who have these caseloads receive additional specialized training.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

We are considered a mid-size Probation Department in New York State with 103 staff employees, most of which are Probation Officers. We continue in advancing our technology to improve the department's mission and assist Probation Officers carrying out their job functions.

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Albany County Probation is views itself as a leader across New York for management and how we conduct Probation business. We continue to serve on many juvenile justice boards and workgroups. Additionally, the New York State Probation Director has asked Albany County Probation to serve on advisory groups and to participate in many new initiatives in Probation. New in 2017:

- The Department was chosen as one of three county Probation Departments in the state to receive funding under the Ignition Interlock Device Joint Enforcement Pilot Program funded by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee and overseen by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services. This pilot mandated collaborative law enforcement, prosecution and probation efforts targeted on DWI offenders required to install Ignition Interlock Devices. From Memorial Day through Labor Day in 2017, the department coordinated and participated in targeted initiatives with the Albany County District

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Attorney's Office, the Albany County Sheriff's Department, and the Colonie and Guilderland Police Departments. Targeted efforts included the mailing of educational pamphlets to individuals required to install Interlock Devices; joint home visits by police and probation to educate offenders, their respective families and house mates regarding the interlock device requirements; targeted initiatives at designated sites to check for the installation of the required device by operators of vehicles; and surveillance of probationers required to only operate vehicles with the device installed and appropriate court action and/or criminal arrests for failure to do so.

- The Department continues to be requested to serve on committees by the NYS Department of Corrections and Probation Alternatives and other oversight agencies, providing input into the development of best practices in the field of Criminal Justice in the state. In 2017, department staff served on the Advisory Council for Probation/Community Supervision of the NYS Impaired Driving, graduated sanctions workgroup for probationers, Statewide Probation Officer and Supervisor Training Workgroup, and the Raise the Age Planning Workgroup.
- In continuing to evaluate the needs of our probationers in the area of employment, the Department identified the lack of a driving license for many of our probationers as a major obstacle in seeking and obtaining meaningful employment. Consequently, the department approached the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles to become a certified agency, teaching the 5 hour Pre-Licensing Course at no cost to identified probationers. In 2017, the department became the first Probation Agency in New York State to become approved to provide such. Several such courses have been run in 2017 within the Probation Department by DMV approved Probation staff. There is continued evaluation of this service we are offering to continue to improve the probationers ability to obtain and maintain gainful employment.
- Responding to the requests of some of our local Judges, the department developed specialized Probation interventions with certain offenders appearing before the Court. Probation has collaborated with Bethlehem Court, in response to their concern of opioid involved offenders, and Cohoes Court, in response to their concern on young adults needing mentors and vocational guidance and intervention.
- The Department continues close collaboration with local government and community partners, for instance, with the Albany Police Department, the Department offers the GIVE VOID, GIVE MDT, GIVE Call-In, LEAD and the Youth Police initiatives. Additionally we partner on community safety special details. With the Department of Children, Youth and Families, the department partners on the JDAI initiative, the Regional Youth Justice Team, and the Juvenile Justice Steering Committee.
- The Department again in 2017 reached 100% compliance on the requirement that all department officers with Peace Officer status securing 21 hours of training in related Probation topics.
- As indicated above in the 2018 goals the Department during 2017 provided specialized programming for Probationers and family members, with no increase in staffing. The department facilitates specialized groups to target specific needs of our probationers. Officers who receive specialized training and/or certifications facilitate the following groups at the Probation Department:

Parent Project: A program geared toward parents of ungovernable adolescents and teens, providing parenting strategies to regain parental control and influence.

Juvenile Community Accountability Board: A restorative justice program for juvenile delinquents, allowing community members to impart upon the youth the impact of the offense upon the community and increase juvenile offender accountability by developing action plans for the juvenile to repair the harm committed by the delinquency act.

Thinking for a Change: A cognitive behavioral change program, which seeks to amend probationers' thinking, social and problem solving skills to prosocial responses.

Ready Set Work: A program offered to probationers who need assistance in obtaining and maintaining employment, which focuses on job seeking and readiness skills, as well as job retention skills.

Financial Education Group: A program designed to help probationers address their financial issues and offers strategies to budget their finances in order to ensure their financial obligations to the victims, court and DWI supervision fees are met.

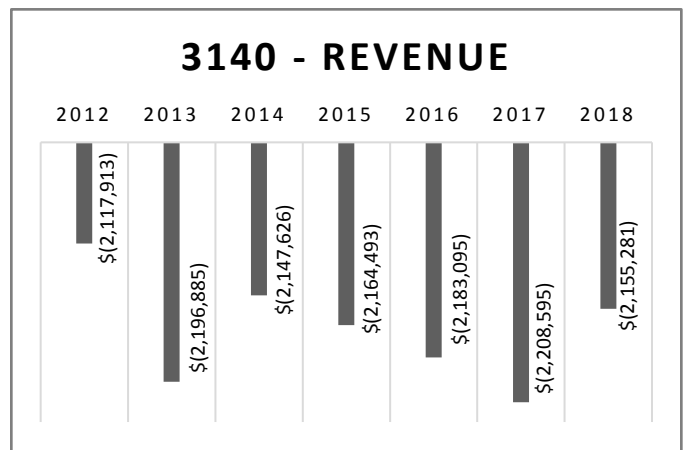
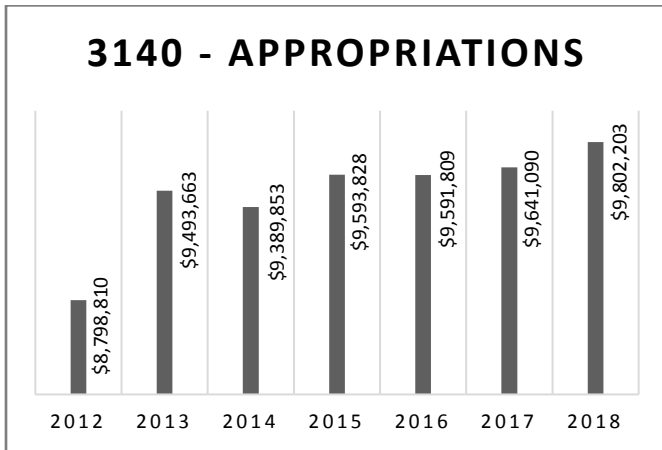
Project Growth: A vocational/employment skill building internship geared toward the trades for youth and young adults on Probation. Stipends earned are designated for any outstanding restitution that may be owed.

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Youth & Police Initiative (YPI): A program in collaboration with Albany Police Department and LaSalle School designed to bring at-risk youth together with local officers. This structured interaction program teaches youth the skills to resolve daily conflicts, while also teaching police officers to understand the youth in their neighborhoods.

Mental Health Peer Support & Advocacy: A program conducted in collaboration with Albany County Mental Health, offering diagnosed probationers the support of peers, as well as an opportunity to address issues with the help of Albany County Mental Health professionals, specialized mental health Probation Officers, and a peer support advocate from the Mental Health Empowerment Project.

- With the passage of the new Raise the Age Legislation, the Department must begin to plan for the entry of a significant number of 16 and 17 year olds into our Juvenile Probation Services. The department will be charged with assessing the risk and needs of these offenders and providing the necessary level of supervision and services. The department could face serving upwards to an additional 400 young adults annually. To be prepared for the onset of the legislation in 2018 the department will continue to seek guidance from the NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives as well as work with other affected county agencies, Family Court, local agencies and community stakeholders in Juvenile Justice.



2018 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

The goal of Probation is consistent with our mission to help probationers lead law abiding lives. Recognizing that our probationers have specific needs that must be addressed in order for them to lead productive and law abiding lives, the department remains committed to exploring how our services are delivered in order to best meet those needs.

- As a department, we remain committed to facilitating groups and providing services that address the needs of probationers. Presently department staff facilitates groups in the areas of finance and budgeting, cognitive thinking, mental health support, employment and vocational skills, youth/law enforcement relations, parenting skills and restorative justice.
- The Department remains committed to being mindful and responsive to current community issues surrounding law enforcement. We will provide department wide officer training during 2018 in the areas of trauma and its effects, implicit bias, and motivational interviewing. We will offer 'train the trainer' programs in these topic areas to allow for department wide training by our department Instructor Development Certified trainers.
- A continued goal into 2018 remains a focus on victim compensation through an increased focus on restitution collection and offender accountability on this area. We have recognized a notable increase in the collection of restitution and DWI supervision fees since making this a special focus in 2017.
- While over two-thirds of our officers carry Naloxone, the department seeks to establish itself as able to train it's own officers and carry out the recertification process, using it's own certified department instructors.

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SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

The 2018 Budget for the Probation Department does not include substantive changes

Below is highlight from our Veteran's adult supervision caseload

Probationer X started his career as a soldier in the United State Army. He served from 9/3/2008-12/23/2011. In that time he was deployed to Iraq and became a decorated soldier earning several medals and ribbons, including the Iraq Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He was medically retired from the Army due to injuries to his back while serving and a diagnosis of war related PTSD. He was awarded 90% disability through the Army at the age of 23.

After discharge he married a woman with two children and he became the main caretaker as a stay at home parent. However as his pain became worse he became more dependent on pain medications and used marijuana to ease his pain. In this time he was having experiencing martial difficulty. A domestic argument led to an arrest and a term of Interim Probation.

Probationer X was able to see he needed to get his substance abuse under control and his pain managed. He successfully completed the VA's inpatient program and the VA's outpatient program. He took his sobriety very seriously and continued to see his pain management doctor, along with attending pain management groups. During this time he worked on a weekly basis with a counselor in the VA's Behavioral Health Department. He also successfully completed the Batterer's Intervention Program and this department's Thinking for a Change program. He excelled in this program and was asked to return as a guest speaker for future classes. Probationer X refrained from all drug and alcohol use and remained arrest-free throughout his term.

While on Interim Probation Probationer X was very invested in his growth as a person and learning from his mistakes. He worked extremely hard and accomplished much in such a short period of time. He worked extremely hard to take full advantage of every program he was involved in. He grew as a person throughout the period of time he was on Interim Probation and took full responsibility for his actions which brought him here. Due to all of the completed tasks listed above he was awarded this Department's Merit Credit and also was granted an Early Term of Probation Supervision.