July 19, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative, I am writing to offer our support for the Reentry Association of WNY’s (RAWNY) proposal to implement a Reentry One-Stop model in Monroe County.

RAWNY’s efforts will reach one of Monroe County’s most vulnerable and underserved populations, community members who often become trapped in a cycle of poverty and re-incarceration. Individuals leaving incarceration face significant roadblocks—documentation and identification needed to qualify for benefits can be difficult to obtain, and job opportunities are scarce. In RMAPI’s extensive outreach to community members affected by poverty, the need for services to the re-entry population was ranked as the second-highest priority, behind only the need for affordable and accessible housing.

RAWNY is uniquely positioned to fill the community’s critical need, advocating for additional funding to increase services and developing minimum standards for the provision of reentry services. Improving services to these individuals can have a significant impact on our entire community, helping to break the cycle of poverty for thousands of families.

Sincerely,

**

Aqua Y. Porter

Executive Director

RMAPI