



**Tioga County Probation Annual Executive Brief and Department Summary**  
**Executive Brief**

**2025 Accomplishments;**

- Establishing and working on initial phase of Succession Plan
- Obtaining contract for Evidence Based resource for Probationers
- Participating in establishing a Southern Tier Training Consortium for Probation
- Coordinating the Weekend Work Program in conjunction with the TCSO
- Creating Probation's Community Outreach Committee
- Continuing Probation's records retention compliance initiative
- Completing an update of the Probation Training manual
- Initiating a cross-training program at Probation
- Refining an internal audit system

**2025 Challenges;**

- Finding qualified applicants for vacant positions
- Office space for staff
- Staffing issues/emotional impact on personnel
- Communication with the Courts and adjusting to new justices/judges
- Availability of accessible treatment resources
- Transportation
- Housing
- Methamphetamine

**2026 Goals;**

- Waverly satellite office/creating more offices
- Preventive caseworker embedded at Probation
- Arming the department plan
- Train officers to be trainers at academy
- Resolution of staffing issues
- Completion of Succession Planning
- Upgrade probation fleet
- Upgrade computers
- Return of Intensive Supervision caseload
- Provide training for Tioga County Law Enforcement Agencies
- Collaborate with TCDSS on Family Court issues

## Department Summary

In 2025, the 17 members of the Tioga County Probation Department worked diligently to maintain and enhance Community Safety in Tioga County. While Probation's primary objective is community safety, supervising appropriate offenders in the community also enables people under supervision to be productive members of society, reduces costs to the County in the form of Pre-Trial Release services, and works to keep healthy family units together, while working to repair other fractured families. During 2025, the Department focused on several elements to make Tioga County Probation a better prepared, more accountable, better equipped, and smoother functioning organization. We accomplished this through a focus on quality assurance, training, succession planning, and collaboration with other agencies to more cost effectively use the resources available.

To assure compliance with all State mandated rules and regulations, Probation worked on refining an internal audit system established in 2024 in which random case files are chosen monthly and reviewed to assure case integrity. During 2025, an update of the Probation Training manual was also completed to ensure the most recent updates from the State and recommended "Best Practice" procedures are available to our Officers. Probation focused on working with our Community Partners by establishing a Community Outreach Committee and participating in events such as the school backpack giveaway, Food Bank giveaways, and Owego Community Halloween just to name a few. We also continued to coordinate with the Tioga County Sheriff's Office to schedule the Weekend Work Program which allows probationers to give back to their community by providing community service hours to accomplish projects at our local not for profit organizations. Internally Probation developed and initiated a succession plan to assure continuity of leadership within the Probation Department for years to come. In addition, cross-training began within the Department to guarantee the same level of quality service can be provided regardless of who is in the office. We also continued with the multi-year records retention initiative by destroying paper files that fall outside the mandated retention period. In order to provide more resources to our probationers, Probation entered into a contract with the Change Company for their evidence based digital platform called "Atlas" which probationers can utilize to complete interactive journaling exercises that they and their Officer can then discuss. These exercises focus on the issues identified in the probationer's risk assessment. The risk assessment identifies areas in the probationer's life which may have contributed to their involvement with the criminal justice system. Lastly, in 2025 Probation joined with 16 other Probation Departments to create a training consortium which can meet the training needs of new Probation Officers in Central New York and not rely on limited State-based training in Albany.

During 2025 Probation faced numerous challenges during our efforts to provide services and maintain probationers safely in the community. One of the most significant challenges was finding quality candidates to fill open positions within the Department. When staff were hired, it became apparent that when fully staffed, more office space would be needed to adequately house all the services and personnel needed to provide services to our probationers. We have also lost staff for one reason or another during 2025. Some of the departures took a significant toll on Probation personnel on both a personal and professional level. Aside from challenges within the Department, there were many challenges outside the Department which impacted Officers' ability to provide optimal community supervision. Issues such as the availability of housing and transportation pose major challenges to our probationers in their ability to maintain compliance with their Orders and Conditions of Probation. This is why one of the Department's goals for

2026 will be to create a fully functional substation in “The Valley” to bring Probation services closer to the residents in that area of the county. Probation currently meet with probationers in a space provided by the Waverly Police Department. While this temporary arrangement has made some positive impact, a fully functional substation would benefit the residents in the western portion of the county. If probationers are able to find appropriate affordable housing and secure transportation, there are a limited number of service agencies available in Tioga County for them to access for their substance abuse and mental health needs. Finally, what may be the most challenging of all is the pervasiveness of methamphetamine and other illicit substances in Tioga County. The issue of addiction is pervasive in the vast majority of probation cases and makes it a challenge at every level to maintain probationers in the community.

As we move forward into 2026, there are several goals and initiatives Probation is hoping to accomplish during the year. In the area of functionality, the primary goal for 2026 is to enhance our current “satellite office” in the Valley and reimagine our current office space to realize better functionality in the existing blueprint. In regard to Officer safety, the Department will continue to move forward in upgrading our fleet of vehicles which is one of an Officer’s primary pieces of safety equipment when in the field. In addition, Probation will create a plan to present to the Legislature with a goal of partially arming the Department. This may include non-lethal methods, lethal methods or a combination of both. Included in this initiative will be a proposal to equip all Officers with body cameras. Collaboration will also be a focus for 2026. Probation plans on collaborating with the Tioga County Information Technology Department to develop a plan which will upgrade the computers in the Department. Discussions and meetings have already occurred with the Tioga County Department of Social Services in an effort to enhance services available to those families involved in the Family Court System and to improve the communication between agencies as we work together to achieve the best outcomes for the families we serve. Part of the collaborative effort may include having a DSS Preventive Caseworker stationed within the Probation Department. Probation also plans to collaborate with the various law enforcement agencies in Tioga County to provide training on the new staff, services, and procedures in place at Probation. An finally, in 2026, Probation hopes to have a fully staffed department which would make all of the afore mentioned goals much more attainable.

The Tioga County Probation Department is committed to community safety and helping those involved with either the Criminal Justice System or Family Court to remain in the community and be productive members of Tioga County as a whole.