



County of Erie  
Department of Probation

EC LEC APR 24 '26 PM 12:39

Richard B. Robillard  
Commissioner

Sheila Ruhland  
Deputy Commissioner

April 24, 2026

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street – 4th Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: **Erie County Conditional Release Commission  
2025 Annual Report**

Dear Honorable Members,

In accordance with Erie County Local Law No. 2-2015 which established the Erie County Conditional Release Commission, the Commission shall present an annual report to the Erie County Legislature, on its findings and actions on submitted applications.

As the Commissioner of the Erie County Probation Department who serves as an ex officio member of the Erie County Conditional Release Commission, this annual report is being submitted for your review on behalf of the Commission.

In March of 2026, all five members of the Erie County Conditional Release Commission (CRC) were appointed/re-appointed by the Erie County Executive upon advice and consent of this Honorable Body and this membership remains intact. The current Commission members include Karima Amin, Dixie Farr, William Crowe, Robert Lonski and Penny Wolfgang. The terms of all Commission members will expire on December 31, 2029.

During the initial four-year period (2016-2019) of the Erie County Conditional Release Program, applications for conditional release from inmates at the Erie County Correctional Facility averaged 56 annually. However, in 2020 the Conditional Release Program only received 18 applications, in 2021 the program received 20 applications, in 2022 it received 26 applications, in 2023 it received 43 applications, in 2024 it received 25 applications, and last year it received 28 applications. It is significant to note though that according to the Erie County Sheriffs Office, in 2018 the average number of sentenced inmates at the Erie County Correctional Facility was 183 while in 2025 it was 148. This was up just slightly from the 2024 number of 144.

Below is an overview of the findings and actions on applications submitted from 2021 through 2025:

<b>FINDINGS/ACTION</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Applications Received	20	26	43	25	28
Application Withdrawn by Inmate	1	2	4	1	1
Ineligible for Release	15	22	35	19	25
Release Denied by CRC	0	1	2	4	1
Release Granted by CRC	*4	1	2	1	1

\* Note, two applications received in 2021 were granted release by the Conditional Release Commission in early 2022.

As noted in the above table, a significant percentage of the conditional release applications are determined ineligible for release primarily as a result of the applicant's legal history. Per NY Corrections Law §273, prior criminal convictions for several listed offenses inclusive of domestic violence offenses preclude eligibility for conditional release.

From program inception through December 31, 2025 the Erie County Probation Department has received 387 applications for conditional release consideration. The department has screened out 257 applications due to release ineligibility; 28 inmates withdrew their applications during the screening process while the Erie County Conditional Release Commission has interviewed and considered for release a total of 96 inmates. During this same period, 53 inmates who were interviewed/considered by the Conditional Release Commission were denied release while 43 were granted release. Of those individuals conditionally released from the Erie County Correctional Facility, 24 (or 56%) have successfully completed the program while one individual remains active in the program.

The Erie County Probation Department continues on-going contact with personnel within the Erie County Correctional Facility in an effort to reinforce program availability and ensure program information is readily available for inmates within the facility. Additionally, efforts have been initiated to increase communication lines between the Erie County Probation Department and both Erie County Correctional Facility and Project Blue staff that are located within the facility.

Should your Honorable Body require any additional information regarding the Erie County Conditional Release Commission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard B. Robillard  
Commissioner  
Erie County Probation Department

cc: Mark C. Poloncarz, County Executive  
Karima Amin, Dixie Farr, William Crowe, Robert Lonski and Penny Wolfgang,  
Erie County Conditional Release Commission members