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# NY budget sets aside at least \$100 million to boost Onondaga County water supply for Micron

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The Onondaga County Water Authority is ready to embark on its biggest expansion since the system was built in the 1960s. Rick Moriarty



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By **Mark Weiner** | [mweiner@syracuse.com](mailto:mweiner@syracuse.com)

A final state budget agreement reached today includes more than \$100 million to help Onondaga County expand its water supply to serve [Micron Technology](#) and related growth in the county, according to two state lawmakers.

The funding – between \$110 million and \$119 million – is expected to be included in a final budget bill Wednesday, said state Assembly member Bill Magnarelli, D-Syracuse, and state Sen. Chris Ryan, D-Geddes.

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If approved, the state funding would provide the money needed for the [Onondaga County Water Authority to begin the largest expansion of its water system](#) since it was built in the 1960s.

OCWA says it will need about \$549 million to build a second water pipeline that would stretch 26 miles to Lake Ontario and expand the water lines to serve Micron's planned computer chip manufacturing complex.

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Micron plans to break ground in November for the first phase of a \$100 billion project at Route 31 and Caughdenoy Road in the town of Clay.

OCWA says it will need the expanded water supply to serve Micron's plants and to keep up with a Micron-fueled population increase of 100,000 people or more.

Until now, it wasn't clear how much of the expansion would be paid for by OCWA customers, Micron or government grants.

OCWA Executive Director Jeff Brown told [syracuse.com](http://syracuse.com) the agency is talking to a wide range of potential funding sources, including the federal government and Micron.

Ryan, the state senator, praised state leaders for coming through with the initial funding for the water system expansion, as well as \$450 million to expand Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse.

"These investments are not just numbers," Ryan said in a statement. "They're a signal that New York is serious about meeting the demands of a booming regional economy."

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OCWA supplies an average of about 36 million gallons per day to its 350,000 customers in parts of five counties in Central New York. The authority wants to double that capacity to 72 million gallons a day.

Micron says it will need up to 48 million gallons per day if it follows through with its plans to build four semiconductor fabrication plants in Clay over the next 20 years.

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