



DANIEL P. McCOY
County Executive

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
COUNTY OF ALBANY
175 GREEN STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12202

The Dr. John J.A. Lyons
ALBANY COUNTY HEALTH FACILITY
(518) 447-4580 FAX (518) 447-4698
www.albanycounty.com

ELIZABETH F. WHALEN, MD, MPH
Commissioner of Health

MARIBETH MILLER, BSN, MS
Deputy Commissioner of Health

RANSOM E. MOORE III
Assistant Commissioner of Finance and
Administration

MEMORANDUM

TO: HRI/NYSDOH

FROM: Dr. Elizabeth F. Whalen, MD, MPH

DATE: March 9, 2023

RE: CDC Grant: Strengthening U.S Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce and Data Systems, CFDA#93.967

Albany County Department of Health will be very happy to accept funding to strengthen public health workforce and Foundational capacities. We agree to accept the funding using a contractual agreement with HRI, and would prefer to have the funding spaced over the 5 years of the grant cycle. At this time, considerations for spending include:

- Hire new staff or retain staff whose grant funding sources are expiring;
- Develop policies and best practices to guide use of funds for various recruitment and retention incentives; deploy the resources for these purposes;
- Invest in staff retention efforts to include retention bonuses, base pay increases, tuition assistance, staff training opportunities (including travel to conferences and events) or other retention efforts;
- Invest in office upgrades to increase employee satisfaction with the workplace environment; examples include minor alterations, repairs, purchasing updated furniture, equipment, Wi-Fi expansion and implementation of software/technology solutions;
- Invest in internal data modernization solutions that will increase efficiencies and improve employee satisfaction.



Albany County Department of Health is nationally accredited and meets rigorous public health standards set forth to best meet the needs of our community.

At this time, our department has over a 25% vacancy rate, and approximately 43% of staff will reach retirement eligibility in the next 5 years. This has influenced our ability to provide full availability of programs and services in such areas as Maternal Child Health and Chronic Disease Prevention. Funding will enable us to better recruit and retain the staff we have. Funding will also allow us to consider much needed office upgrades and data modernization solutions.

Pursuant to [2022 Capital Region Community Health Needs Assessment](#), [Albany County 2022-2024 Community Health Improvement Plan](#) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index, specific communities exhibiting the most significant health disparities, experiencing social and economic marginalization, and demonstrating the greatest need for public health infrastructure support include, but are not limited to, the cities of Albany, Cohoes, and Watervliet.

Strengthening the local public health infrastructure will directly improve Albany County Department of Health's ability to address health inequities in the community by providing the necessary resources to promote community-clinical linkages; establish evidence-based self-management initiatives; build data to action capacity; implement CDC *Closing the Gap with Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plans* (complementing New York State Department of Health 1115 Waiver Demonstration); and comply with Public Health Law Article 6 requirements.



Albany County Department of Health is nationally accredited and meets rigorous public health standards set forth to best meet the needs of our community.