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April 5, 2023

Hon. Andrew Joyce, Chairman
Legislative Clerk's Office
112 State St., Room 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairman Joyce,

The Department of Social Services respectfully requests legislative approval for the following:

Authorization is requested to enter into an agreement with Homeless and Travelers Aid Society (HATAS) for the provision of after-hours Homeless/Housing Emergency Services. HATAS provides non-business hour coverage (i.e. evenings, nights, weekends and holidays) to serve individuals and families who present as homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness by assisting them to access needed emergency shelter or diverted from homelessness by retaining or securing adequate housing.

As a local social services district, the Albany County Department of Social Services is responsible for securing temporary/emergency shelter placement for homeless persons who are eligible or potentially eligible for Temporary Assistance. DSS is also required to shelter all persons who present as homeless during Code Blue (weather under 32 degrees Fahrenheit). HATAS also provides monitoring for Code Blue nights and communicates these alerts on behalf of the Department.

Sincerely,

Michele G. McClave
Commissioner

cc: Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader
Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel
Minority Counsel