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July 7, 2021

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:

CARES, Inc. has entered into an agreement with the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for ESG services and wishes to subcontract with Albany County Department of Social Services (DSS) to utilize DSS personnel and expertise to serve 275 homeless individuals/families. Therefore, authorization is requested to contract with CARES, Inc. to perform ESG services in the amount of \$140,000.

The contract supports DSS in efforts to manage homeless persons who are COVID infected or exposed to the virus and are under quarantine. Funds will reimburse DSS to provide these persons with a safe and healthy place to stay away from others as well as food and case management to assist them in following quarantine or isolation orders. The program protects other homeless individuals in shelters by removing COVID+ or potentially COVID+ homeless from congregate shelters during their quarantine period. The ongoing requirement to maintain social distancing and to shelter COVID+ in hotels/motels for their isolation/quarantine period will need to continue to help reduce significant outbreaks in our homeless shelters especially in regards to additional COVID surges and alternate strains.

Sincerely,

Michele G. McClave
Commissioner

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