

Hive of Hope's

Albany County Recovery Support

Program Funding Application

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AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Hive of Hope requests that it be awarded \$50,000 of the County's Opioid Settlement Funds, through the 2025 Recovery Support Program Grant.

Hive of Hope is a sober active community that operates a free community center for people in recovery from substance use disorder known as "The Hive". Membership at The Hive has exceeded 800 people, and it continues to grow by 30-40 people month to month. The Hive sees an average of 500 visits every month and our members perform hundreds of hours of volunteer work.

Many of our members are first introduced to the Hive while participating in a local treatment program. The Hive has partnered with ACCA, Hope House, Hospitality House, and the Schenectady City Mission to host the organizations as a group on a regular basis. This provides prospective members the opportunity to become acclimated to the facility and get to know the team at The Hive while they are still engaged in treatment. Once they leave treatment, many of these people become regular members of The Hive and continue to utilize the center to better their lives and build relationships with others in recovery. In addition to those coming from treatment, many people find The Hive through word of mouth, social media, or through The Hive's outreach efforts at other community events.

The Hive's community center, located conveniently on the bus line, at 161 Central Ave in Albany is completely free to anyone in recovery and consists of a cafe, recreation space, office work station, and gym. It is staffed by founder and CEO, Nathan Writer, and Operations Manager, Shawn Sanders. Both staff members are in recovery from substance use disorder and have completed the CRPA training program. The staff is supported by a host of volunteers that do everything from make coffee and clean the facility, to lead programs such as hikes and exercise classes. These volunteers and The Hive staff are people with lived experience who are happy to share their story with a new member.

The cafe serves coffee, tea, protein shakes, and snacks. It is an ideal area to meet new people in recovery and build relationships while enjoying a hot cup of coffee. There is always a smiling face of someone with lived experience behind the register for those in need of someone to chat with. Want to learn how to eat healthier and prepare healthy meals? The Hive's nutrition experts and dedicated volunteers Bonnie and Lisa host a healthy food tasting monthly where guests can sample a healthy meal, learn how it was created, and get their nutrition questions answered.

The recreation space at The Hive is always buzzing. Equipped with a pool table, foosball table, corn hole boards, basketball hoop, big screen TVs and board games, the recreation space at The Hive is sure to please. The games bring people together and encourage collaboration among the members. In addition to the daily fun at the Hive, the Hive also hosts special events including barbecues, dances, hikes, movie nights, and much more. Sober life can be more fun than the alternative.

The office work station consists of everything you'd find in a traditional office: computer, colored printer, hole punch, ruler, scissors, etc.. Free WIFI throughout the building allows members to bring in their own devices and link to the network. The Hive is the ideal spot to write your resume, search for a job or home, or stay up to date on the latest news. The Hive hosts monthly workshops for CRPAs and weekly recovery meetings. Local lifesaving resources such as Whitney Young's Community Prevention and Treatment Services, Project Safepoint, and MVP Health Insurance can regularly be found tabling at the Hive sharing their resources with our members.

The Hive is known for its state-of-the-art gym that is completely free to anyone in recovery. The gym has everything you need to get a great workout, including, a treadmill, elliptical machine, spin bikes, free weights, and cable machines. Nathan is a certified personal

trainer and is always happy to help anyone looking to get into fitness. Interested in learning how to protect yourself against attack, dedicated Hive volunteer Freddie will show you how in his free self-defense class known as Positive Punches. Freddie has completed the CRPA course and has years of lived experience. He combines martial arts, with breathing exercises, stretching, and striking techniques in a way that motivates, inspires, and builds confidence. All the while, members of the class are building relationships.

PLAN FOR THE FUNDS

Hive of Hope plans to use the funds to ensure the continued operation of our free community center by supporting the operating expenses for the center over the next 1 year. Plans for the funds include covering such things as inventory, rent, utilities, office supplies, accounting and regulatory fees, and more. *See the highlighted section of the attached spreadsheet for the specific plan for funding.*

Hive of Hope's financial future is at a critical state and current projections have funds depleted in the summer of 2026. Funding opportunities for The Hive are limited and despite the incredibly promising results being seen at the Hive, donations have been increasingly more difficult to come by. While we have seen an increase in financial support from our treatment partners, who have seen firsthand the effect that exposure to The Hive provides to their clients, more is needed to keep the doors open. Funding from this program, would ultimately have the effect of sustaining The Hive for an additional 4 months while we continue to pursue sustainable funding opportunities.

GOAL OF THE PROJECT

The goal of the project is to enable The Hive to continue to serve its mission for an additional 4 months. The Hive's mission is to replace the need to use drugs with the desire to

contribute. Through exercise, nutrition, recreation, fellowship, and service, The Hive strives to help people obtain and maintain sobriety by making sober life better than the alternative.

The opposite of addiction is connection. The Hive will know the goal is being reached if connections are being made. When like-minded people are brought together in a healthy environment while doing positive things, a support network is built. The Hive will know that our goal is being met if we are continuing to draw people in the door and offer them opportunities to connect. Some of the metrics that will show the impact of the grant is the number of new members, number of visits to the center, and number of events hosted monthly.

The Hive's moto "Sober Living Through Giving" stresses the importance of service work in recovery. The Hive believes that one of the keys to overcoming the guilt and shame those in early recovery often face is by being of service to others. The Hive offers countless opportunities for volunteering both within the facility and out in the community. The Hive will know that our goal is being met if members continue to capitalize on the service opportunities we offer. Another metric that will show the impact of the grant is the number of volunteer hours performed by members monthly.

CONCLUSION

Funding from this project will have an immediate and lasting effect on the community by allowing Hive of Hope to continue to offer their exemplary recovery services for an additional four months. During that time, countless relationships will be built, lives will be improved, and memories will be created.

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|--|---|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Hive of Hope | | | | | | | | |
| Budget 4/25-6/26 | | 4/25 - 6/25 | 7/25 - 9/25 | 10/25 - 12/25 | 1/26 - 3/26 | 4/26 - 6/26 | 7/26 - 9/26 | 10/26 - 12/26 |
| Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| Building & Office Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| | Building Setup | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| | Cable & Internet Service | 874.91 | 874.91 | 874.91 | 874.91 | 874.91 | 874.91 | 874.91 |
| | Equipment | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | Office Supplies | 845.25 | 845.25 | 845.25 | 845.25 | 845.25 | 845.25 | 845.25 |
| | Postage & Mailing | 31.04 | 31.04 | 31.04 | 31.04 | 31.04 | 31.04 | 31.04 |
| | Computer Hardware & Software | 17.06 | 17.06 | 17.06 | 17.06 | 17.06 | 17.06 | 17.06 |
| | Rent | 3939.5 | 3939.5 | 3939.5 | 3939.5 | 3939.5 | 3939.5 | 3939.5 |
| | Materials | 425 | 425 | 425 | 425 | 425 | 425 | 425 |
| | Repairs and Maintenance | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| | Furniture & Appliances | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 |
| Total Building & Office Expenses | | 7102.76 | 7102.76 | 7102.76 | 7102.76 | 7102.76 | 7102.76 | 7102.76 |
| Contracts & Professional Services | | | | | | | | |
| | Accounting Fees | 681.51 | 681.51 | 681.51 | 681.51 | 681.51 | 681.51 | 681.51 |
| | Professional Services (Audit, Filings, Consultant) | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| | Disability and PFL Insurance | | | | | | | |
| | Workers Compensation Insurance | 280.25 | 280.25 | 280.25 | 280.25 | 280.25 | 280.25 | 280.25 |
| | Liability insurance | 852.4 | 852.4 | 852.4 | 852.4 | 852.4 | 852.4 | 852.4 |
| | Security Services | 514 | 514 | 514 | 514 | 514 | 514 | 514 |
| Total Contracts & Professional Services | | 3328.16 | 3328.16 | 3328.16 | 3328.16 | 3328.16 | 3328.16 | 3328.16 |
| Executive Office | | | | | | | | |
| | Professional Training & Development | 41.51 | 41.51 | 41.51 | 41.51 | 41.51 | 41.51 | 41.51 |
| | Health Insurance Reimbursement | | | | | | | |
| Total Executive Office | | 41.51 | 41.51 | 41.51 | 41.51 | 41.51 | 41.51 | 41.51 |
| General Miscellaneous | | | | | | | | |
| | Advertising & marketing | 332.72 | 332.72 | 332.72 | 332.72 | 332.72 | 332.72 | 332.72 |
| | Bank fees & service charges | 20.93 | 20.93 | 20.93 | 20.93 | 20.93 | 20.93 | 20.93 |
| Total General Miscellaneous | | 353.65 | 353.65 | 353.65 | 353.65 | 353.65 | 353.65 | 353.65 |
| Operating Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| | Cafe Expenses | 56.58 | 56.58 | 56.58 | 56.58 | 56.58 | 56.58 | 56.58 |
| | Inventory & Supplies | 1488.48 | 1488.48 | 1488.48 | 1488.48 | 1488.48 | 1488.48 | 1488.48 |
| | Fundraising & Events | 471.55 | 471.55 | 471.55 | 471.55 | 471.55 | 471.55 | 471.55 |
| Total Operating Expenses | | 2016.61 | 2016.61 | 2016.61 | 2016.61 | 2016.61 | 2016.61 | 2016.61 |
| Programmatic Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| | Recovery | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | Meetings & Events | 100 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| | Recreation | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | Fitness | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Total Programmatic Expenses | | 400 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 |
| Payroll Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| | Taxes | 2100 | 2100 | 2100 | 2100 | 2100 | 2100 | 2100 |
| | Reimbursements | | | | | | | |

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Wages | 24475 | 24475 | 24475 | 24475 | 24475 | 24475 | 24475 |
| Total Payroll Expenses | | 26575 | 26575 | 26575 | 26575 | 26575 | 26575 | 26575 |
| Total Expenses | | \$39,817.69 | \$40,217.69 | \$40,217.69 | \$40,217.69 | \$40,217.69 | \$40,217.69 | \$40,217.69 |
| Revenue | Carry Over | 75000 | \$77,882.31 | \$45,364.62 | \$12,846.93 | \$15,329.24 | \$17,811.55 | -\$14,706.14 |
| Cafe Sales | | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| Donations | | | | | | | | |
| Grants | | 35000 | | | 35000 | 35000 | | |
| Services | | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 |
| Rental Income | | 1800 | 1800 | 1800 | 1800 | 1800 | 1800 | 1800 |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | | |
| Total Revenue | | 117700 | \$85,582.31 | \$53,064.62 | \$55,546.93 | \$58,029.24 | \$25,511.55 | -\$7,006.14 |
| Balance w/o Project Funding | | \$77,882.31 | \$45,364.62 | \$12,846.93 | \$15,329.24 | \$17,811.55 | -\$14,706.14 | -\$47,223.83 |
| Balance w/ Project Funding | | \$127,882.31 | \$95,364.62 | \$62,846.93 | \$65,329.24 | \$67,811.55 | \$35,293.86 | \$2,776.17 |
| | Total Funding Request = | \$50,000 | | | | | | |
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