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DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

November 8, 2022

New York State Homes & Community Renewal
Office of Community Renewal
c/o Hailey Hamias
38-40 State Street, 4 South Hampton Plaza
Albany, NY 12207

Subject: Request for 6 Month No Cost Extension of 8CVHR33-21

Albany County is requesting a no-cost, 6 month extension of the CDBG-CARES award 8CVHR33-21 through May 10, 2023. While the County has made progress on both the local mental health system enhancements and housing remediation projects, additional time is needed to allow the County and its sub awardees to see projects through to completion. The County has experienced unanticipated challenges in getting these projects kicked off due to national staffing shortages among mental health care providers and administrative backlog. Fortunately, the County is now in a solid position to advance the projects funded by the Community Development Block Grant, and anticipates that a 6 month extension should be sufficient to complete the work plan.

Schedule of Milestones (11/2021 – 11/2022)

In addition to working through the County's Legislative authorization process as well as HUD/HCR's administrative requirements for the CDBG program (e.g., environmental review, public comments, release of funds, etc.), Albany County and its sub-awardees have:

Housing Remediation

- Completed RFQ for architectural firm
- Received approvals from City of Albany
- Completed HazMat surveys, asbestos/lead testing, and preliminary landscaping and tree work.

Mental Health System Supports

- *Project 1 (LEAD)* – As of August 31, 2022, Albany County has spent down nearly 60% of its budget for this project providing additional case management for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion. Based on reporting from the sub-awardee to date, this funding has provided services to 174 unique persons across 369 engagements.

- *Project 2 (PSCC)* – Reinvigorated Patient/Program Services Coordinating Committee by hiring social worker and peer advocate. Funding didn't kick in until 4/1/22. Through 6 months, there's been 159 high-touch engagements across 17 clients.
- *Project 3 (Hilltowns SUD)* – Hilltown Healthcare (the provider identified in the CDBG application) is no longer willing/able to offer space at their medical offices for automatic, on-site referrals to Albany County's substance use disorder treatment provider. So, Albany County is pitching to pivot the focus of our substance use disorder project so that services aren't tied to a brick and mortar location, and instead we will leverage our mobile SUD treatment van to offer services at a multitude of community sites in the Hilltowns.
- *Project 4 (ACCORD)* – Added 1 new social worker to the County's alternative crisis co-responder (paramedic and social worker) program, known as ACCORD. Unfortunately, spending under CDBG didn't begin until 4/1/22, and the new hire has since left County employment. The County is actively recruiting to fill the vacancy, and we're optimistic that we'll be able to find the right candidate. Through the past 6 months (April – October), there have been 207 engagements across 108 unique individuals. Additional training opportunities and the purchase of interoperable communications equipment is ongoing.

Schedule of Milestones (Present – 5/2023)

Housing Remediation

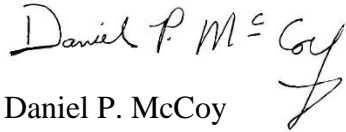
- Construction out to bid and award executed for the December Land Bank Board meeting
- Start interior construction as weather allows, working inside through winter months
- Start exterior construction as soon as weather allows

Mental Health System Supports

- *Project 1 (LEAD)* – Retain staff for the program for as long as CDBG funding remains. Explore opportunities to backfill funding. Budget will be exhausted by close of the grant.
- *Project 2 (PSCC)* – Hiring under the CDBG award didn't start until 4/1/22. Assuming staffing levels remain consistent, the County anticipates a continuation of the caseload experienced during the first 6 months, and to have completed the work plan by May 2023. High likelihood budget will be exhausted by close of the grant.
- *Project 3 (Hilltowns SUD)* – Albany County is pitching to pivot the focus of our substance use disorder project so that services aren't tied to a brick and mortar location, and instead we will leverage our mobile SUD treatment van to offer services at a multitude of community sites in the Hilltowns. The biggest change to this projects' budget would be to repurpose funds originally intended for rent at Hilltown Healthcare towards improvements of the treatment van. Assuming HCR approves a budget modification or this change to the work plan, there's a high likelihood budget will be exhausted by close of the grant.
- *Project 4 (ACCORD)* – The County is actively recruiting to fill the vacancy, and we're optimistic that we'll find the right candidate. Additional training and the purchase of interoperable communications equipment is ongoing. Because of the existing vacancy, it's unlikely that the budget (without an amendment or change to the original work plan) will be exhausted by close of the grant.

Thank you in advance for consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself, Lucas Rogers, or Patrick Alderson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel P. McCoy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive