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DEBORAH C. RIITANO
COMMISSIONER

July 28, 2021

Honorable Andrew Joyce, Chairman
Albany County Legislature
112 State Street, Room 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairman Joyce:

The Department for Aging is requesting the Legislature's approval for the following;

To accept the III-C1 Congregate Meals Program grant from New York State Office for Aging. This grant funding will provide congregate meal services to older adults in Albany County.

Grant Award Amount – \$406,507.00
Grant Term – 1/1/2022 to 12/31/2022
Funding Source – Federal - 90% County - 10%
Budget Amendment – No
Revenue Account – A6772.04774

During the past year, the Albany County Department for Aging supported congregate meal sites within the county that provided nutritious meals approved by a registered dietician to older adults. The program is open to people who are 60 years or older, or the spouse of an eligible individual regardless of age. The congregate meal program not only provides older adults with nutritious meals but also provides them with an opportunity to interact with others, thereby reducing isolation and loneliness.

From March 2020 to June 2021 the COVID pandemic shut down congregate dining and changed the program to a grab and go format, which gave older adults the ability to continue to receive a nutritious meal.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah C. Riitano
Commissioner

cc: Hon. Dennis Feeney, Majority Leader
Hon. Frank Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel
Arnis Zilgme, Minority Counsel