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February 9, 2022

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:

Approval is requested to accept an allocation of NYS funding from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to provide ongoing rental supplements to households which are homeless or facing an imminent loss of housing. Eligibility will include households with less than 50% of Area Median Income at time of application; households do not have to be Temporary Assistance eligible. The program allows for DSS to pay up to 85% of Fair Market Rent and continue rent payments on an ongoing basis to achieve housing stability for homeless households. Payments are expected to continue until tenant's income allows for the household to contribute 30% of their income as rent.

The Albany County Department of Social Services (DSS) proposes to administer the Rental Supplement Program in its entirety. DSS will coordinate and include our Continuum of Care (a local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals) to identify trends and data to assist us in a successful implementation of this program and avoid duplication with other rent programs.

DSS will provide education and outreach and work closely with our contracted shelter providers (two Family Shelters, Domestic Violence shelter provider and five single shelters) to identify families and singles who would benefit from the Rental Supplemental Program in order to move them out of shelter and into permanent housing. We will also provide education and outreach to other community providers who work with homeless families and singles to identify individuals who are homeless or facing an eviction for not being able to pay rent, who may be potentially eligible for RSP.

Sincerely,

Michele G. McClave
Commissioner

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