



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION
175 GREEN STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12202
518-447-4537 FAX 518-447-4577
WWW.ALBANYCOUNTY.COM

Daniel P. McCoy
County Executive

Michael P. McLaughlin, Jr.
Deputy County Executive

Stephen J. Giordano, Ph.D.
Director of Mental Health

Cindy G. Hoffman, LCSW-R
Deputy Director

July 30, 2025

Honorable Joanne Cunningham
Chairwoman
Albany County Legislature
112 State Street
Room 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham,

The Department of Mental Health respectfully requests permission to award \$6,165 in Opioid Settlement Funding to Albany Medical College / Center in response to their proposal for funding through RFP#2025-084 Opioid Settlement Funded Treatment Provider Mini-Grants. AMC will use these funds to support the purchase of virtual reality hardware and software for their Alternatives to Opioids Pain Management Program.

In 2024, AMC received an Opioid Settlement Funded Community Grant help launch the Alternative to Opioids program, which uses a Pain Management Coach, tablet-based music and mindfulness therapy, art therapy, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation and canine-assisted interventions to assist individuals in managing chronic pain without the use of opioids. The proposed VR-base therapy will provide participants with another option for managing their pain and will license existing pain management software. The requested funding will support the purchase of VR equipment and a one-year software license.

Feel free to contact me or Adam Kirkman if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,

Stephen Giordano, Ph.D.
Director

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