



DANIEL P. MCCOY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
162 WASHINGTON AVENUE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12210-2304
(518) 447-7300
WWW.ALBANYCOUNTY.COM

MICHELE G. MCCLAVE
COMMISSIONER

ERIN M. STACHEWICZ
EXECUTIVE DEPUTY
COMMISSIONER

VALERIE SACKS
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

June 8, 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:

The Albany County Department of Social Services currently has two Registered Nurse vacancies that were built in the 2022 Budget to accommodate a salary of \$57,054, which is well below the current competitive salary structure for Registered Nurses. We have been unable to fill these positions for more than two years which has caused us to be out of compliance with NYS Department of Health regulatory requirements for our home care cases.

During the last two years, we have been attempting to recruit RNs through an ongoing job posting on the County website, posting the openings on Indeed, we were granted by the County Legislature a waiver for the residency requirement for a year, we have asked our contracted home care providers for assistance but they too are struggling in recruiting RNs and are only able to assist once a month. We have also attempted to recruit temporary help but the hourly rate is also not competitive with what RNs are paid for temporary work. We have also attempted to recruit from local colleges as well as from a list of names that Larry Slatky, Shaker Place provided to us. Even with all of these approaches, we have been unsuccessful due to the very low salary we are paying.

We currently have more than 120 cases that are awaiting a new assessment or a required 6 month re-assessment for Medicaid home care services, as well as updated care plans. These assessments are critical for the individuals we serve so we can ensure they are receiving the appropriate care to remain safely in their homes.

To get back into compliance with regulation and continue to provide the appropriate home care services to individuals in need, we are requesting an increase to both of the Registered Nurse lines so that they reflect the increased salary level in the department's 2022 Budget. We are also requesting an increase in our Temporary Help line because we may continue to need to attempt to recruit Temporary Help to assist with the backlog of cases.

Sincerely,

Michele G. McClave
Commissioner

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