



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION
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April 29, 2026

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 \$200,000 in Opioid Settlement Funding (OSF) to Healthy Capital District (HCD) for the purpose of providing training and training scholarships to individuals in substance use recovery to become Certified Recovery Peer Advocates (CRPAs) and/or Peer Supervisors. HCD will also conduct outreach to marginalized populations and will provide ongoing support to peers who are employed or volunteering at treatment or recovery support agencies in Albany County. HCD was selected for funding through a competitive grant application process and will implement this project over the next two (2) years.

Healthy Capital District has provided peer training and scholarships since 2023; in 2024, they received an Albany County OSF Community Grant to expand their scholarship program and to set up a virtual learning platform for continuing education classes. This new grant will build on those efforts to increase the number of individuals who receive CRPA or Peer Supervision training and to expand their outreach efforts, scholarship program and workforce support efforts. HCD has been a great partner to Albany County and regularly participates in meetings of the Albany County Opioid Task Force.

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