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COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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DEBORAH C. RIITANO  
COMMISSIONER

June 14, 2022

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 that to older adults in Albany County.

Grant Award Amount – \$389,551.00  
Grant Term – 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023  
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.

During the first quarter of 2022 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