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December 28, 2024

New York State Homes & Community Renewal
Office of Community Renewal
c/o Hailey Hamias
38-40 State Street, 4 South Hampton Plaza
Albany, NY 12207

Subject: Request for No Cost Extension of 8CVHR33-21

Albany County is requesting a no-cost, 3 month extension of the CDBG-CARES award 8CVHR33-21 through March, 2024. While the County has made significant progress on both the local mental health system enhancements and housing remediation projects, additional time is needed to allow the County and its sub-awardees to see projects through to completion. The County has continued to experience unanticipated workforce challenges related to ongoing national staffing shortages among mental health care providers (particularly in Crisis Services) as well as administrative backlog. Separately the death of one of the Department of Mental Health's staff directly working on one of the projects, resulted in some additional interruptions to fully utilizing these funds. We feel confident that we can fully expend the remaining funds to serve the mission of the Community Development Block Grant, and anticipate that this extension should be sufficient to complete the work plan.

Schedule of Milestones (06/2023 – 12/30/2023)

In addition to working through the County's Legislative authorization process as well as HUD/HCR's administrative requirements for the CDBG program (e.g., environmental review, public comments, release of funds, etc.), Albany County and its sub-awardees have:

Housing Remediation

- Construction out to bid and award executed for the December Land Bank Board meeting
- Start interior construction as weather allows, working inside through winter months
- Start exterior construction as soon as weather allows
- Identified and secured additional funding to rehab both 48 and 50 2nd Avenue - May and June
- Contract contracts fully executed - July
- Contractor mobilization – August

- Hazardous materials abatement, demolition and site work completed – September
- Masonry, framing and roofing work completed – October
- Electrical and plumbing, HVAC rough-ins completed – November
- Windows and doors and drywall installed/painting/decks constructed – December

Mental Health System Supports

- *Project 1 (LEAD)* As of May 10, 2023 Albany County's sub awardee has spent down the entire budget for this project providing additional case management for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion. Based on reporting from the sub-awardee to date, this funding has provided services to 174 unique persons across 369 engagements through May of 2023 when this funding was exhausted.

91% of the funds for Projects 2 through 4, have been expended at this time.

- *Project 2 (PSCC)* – While a social worker vacancy did continue throughout this last period due to nationwide shortages in this area, the goals of this grant were addressed by the larger Department and the Peer hired as a part of this grant. Ongoing enhanced and sustained engagement of difficult/underserved individuals can be directly attributed to funding from this grant. The re-allocation of these funds allowed for improved advocacy, support and outreach, as well as resources for the individuals served by this program. This allowed for improved linkage and connection to services as well as better outcomes. During this last 7 month period, there have been 160 high-touch engagements across 29 unique Individuals by the Peer hired as a part of this funding.
- *Project 3 (Hilltowns SUD)* –After funds were reallocated as a part of the previous extension, staff through the Mobile Outreach Treatment Overdose and Response Unit were able to enhance the presence/engagement with community members in under-served communities within the Hill Town area. This was accomplished through both the increased volume of individuals served as well as through increased community education and outreach. Due to some complications with vendor acquisition of technology equipment there was a delay in expenditure of these funds. During this period of time MOTOR has served 67 unique individuals and provided 158 engagements. Additionally, MOTOR has been able to increase their participation in many community events and offer a larger array of resources and information to countless individuals. MOTOR continues to expand overdose response services and as result increases the potential for saving lives.
- *Project 4 (ACCORD)* – Staffing has continued to be a challenge in this program, however, funds were reallocated to allow for more outreach, support and resources to be provided to the community and individuals served by ACCORD. Reallocation also allowed for the enhancement of technological efficiencies and improved training for staff. This program would continue to benefit from additional outreach and materials to educate the community. Through the past 7 months there have been 87 services across 56 unique individuals. In spite of staffing challenges, there continues to be a critical need for ongoing expansion of these type of crisis services.

Schedule of Milestones (Present –03/2024)

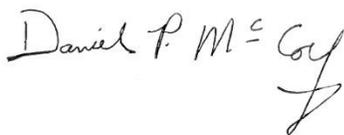
Housing Remediation

- Exterior and façade – January
- Casework, cabinetry and finish work – February
- Final punch list - March

Mental Health System Supports

- *Project 1 (LEAD)* As noted as of May 10, 2023 Albany County's sub awardee has spent down the entire budget for this project providing additional case management for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion. Based on reporting from the sub-awardee to date, this funding has provided services to 174 unique persons across 369 engagements through May of 2023 when this funding was exhausted.
- *Project 2 (PSCC)* – After an extension of this grant, the majority of the funds were expended and utilized to both sustain and enhance the reach of this program to high need individuals. However, a small balance remains. If an extension is granted this will allow for increased training of staff and the purchase of equipment to improve expertise for better serving these individuals as well as to enhance efficiencies. The County anticipates a continuation of the caseload experienced during the last 25 months, and to have expended all funds by June of 2024.
- *Project 3 (Hilltowns SUD)* – Albany County reallocated funds allowing for enhanced awareness and provision of resources to community members. We believe with an expansion of the grant period, there's a high likelihood that the budget will be exhausted. Funding will primarily be used to enhance technological efficiencies and allow for improved tracking of the needs of individuals served.
- *Project 4 (ACCORD)* – The County is actively recruiting to fill vacancies in the ACCORD program which is a critical crisis service within the community. While the majority of funds in this project have been expended, if granted an extension, funds would be utilized to increase materials provided to individuals in need as well as to educate the community about crisis services/ACCORD.
- Thank you in advance for consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself, Lucas Rogers, or Patrick Alderson.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel P. McCoy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D" and "M".

Daniel P. McCoy

Albany County Executive