



COUNTY OF ALBANY  
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
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May 27, 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 \$25,000 in Opioid Settlement Funding to Healthy Capital District (HCD) in response to their proposal for funding through RFP #2026-086 Opioid Settlement Funded Mini-Grants. Healthy Capital District will use these funds to support a research project on peers in the Capital District workforce.

Healthy Capital District has been in operation for over 25 years and currently serves more than 15,000 residents annually, providing health insurance enrollment, benefits navigation, social determinants of health screening and referral, among other services. In 2024 HCD received an Albany County OSF Community Grant to provide Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) training scholarships. This year, they also submitted a successful proposal to expand that program to include Peer Supervision Training, outreach to marginalized populations and ongoing workforce support to peers who are working or volunteering for Capital District agencies.

The requested mini grant will be used to fund a research project on peers in the workforce, including effective training models, supervision structures, and integration into agencies' workforce. This project will help inform HCD's aforementioned OSF Peer Training grant, while also providing valuable information to agencies who hire and/or training peers. The ultimate goal of the project is to improve economic stability for peers, strengthen workforce retention and expand access to recovery support services across the Capital Region.

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