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August 26, 2024

Hon. Joanne Cunningham, Chairwoman
Albany County Legislature
112 State St., Room 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham:

The Department of Social Services respectfully requests legislative approval for the following:

As a local social services district, the Albany County Department of Social Services (DSS) is responsible for securing temporary/emergency shelter placement for homeless persons who are eligible or potentially eligible for Temporary Assistance. Therefore, authorization is requested to renew an agreement with the Homeless and Travelers Aid Society (HATAS) for \$200,000 to operate the Homeless/Housing Emergency Services Program that provides after hours, seven (7) days per week coverage to serve individuals and families who present as homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, by assisting them to access emergency shelter or be diverted from homelessness by retaining or securing adequate housing.

HATAS operates and advertises an on-call hotline number and responds to shelter inquiries from homeless persons, hospitals, law enforcement, contracted shelters and others who may identify someone in need of shelter. HATAS coordinates on-call services with DSS to place persons who have had contact with DSS during business hours, but may need assistance on nights and weekends. HATAS also responds to calls after-hours for persons facing heat shut off during inclement weather.

Sincerely,

Michele G. McClave
Commissioner

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