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DEBORAH C. RIITANO
COMMISSIONER

May 21, 2021

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 stimulus funding for III-C1 Congregate Meals Program from New York State Office for Aging. This funding will provide additional needed congregate meal services to older adults in Albany County.

Stimulus Award Amount – \$228,176.00 Term – 4/1/2021 to 9/30/2024
Funding Source – Federal - 100% Budget Amendment – No
Revenue Account – A6772 . 04774

During the pandemic this past year 2020, the Albany County Department for Aging supported congregate meal sites within the county that provided 101,033 nutritious meals in the form of a grab and go concept with meals approved by a registered dietician. The program is open to people who are 60 years or older, or the spouse of an eligible individual regardless if age. The congregate meal program traditionally provides older adults with an opportunity to interact with others, thereby reducing social isolation, but during the pandemic it made sure that older adults were able to still receive nutritious meals during NYS executive order in response to the pandemic.

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