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May 5, 2023

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, 7.5 month extension of the CDBG-CARES award 8CVHR33-21 through December 31, 2023. While the County has made 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 experienced unanticipated challenges in getting these projects kicked off due to national staffing shortages among mental health care providers and administrative backlog, as well as delays associated with higher than expected construction costs. We have been working closely with HCR staff to work through each of these issue as they arise and are now in a solid position to advance the projects funded by the Community Development Block Grant. An extension to the end 2023 should be sufficient to complete the work plan.

**Schedule of Milestones (11/2021 – 5/3/2022)**

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 completed:

**Housing Remediation**

- Environmental Review Record - February 2022
- Architectural services procurement released - April 2022
- Architectural services contact executed - June 2022
- Architectural drawings and construction specifications package prepared - November 2022
- Construction services procured - November 2022
- Construction services responses received/reviewed - January 2023
- Project plans and approvals submitted for municipal permitting/approvals - April 2023
- Land Bank Board of Directors conditional approval of construction services contract - April 2023

### Mental Health System Supports

- *Project 1 (LEAD)* – As of May 10, 2023 Albany County's subawardee 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.
- *Project 2 (PSCC)* – Reinvigorated Patient/Program Services Coordinating Committee by hiring social worker and peer advocate. Funding didn't begin until 4/1/22. Throughout this time period the Social Worker and Peer Advocate worked with high need individuals, connected them with resources and diverted them from unnecessary over-utilization of emergency services. Of note is an enhanced and sustained engagement of difficult/underserved individuals directly attributable to the hiring of PSCC staff. In March of 2023, ACDMH experienced a vacancy in the Social Work position. However, during this 18 month period, there's been 774 high-touch engagements across 33 unique Individuals.
- *Project 3 (Hilltowns SUD)* – As previously noted, Hilltown Healthcare (the provider identified in the CDBG application) was no longer willing/able to offer space at their medical offices for automatic, on-site referrals to Albany County's substance use disorder treatment provider. Funds were reallocated to enhance the presence/engagement with MOTOR (Mobile Outreach Treatment Overdose Response) with community members in under-served communities within the Hill Town area. During this period of time MOTOR has served 118 unique individuals and provided 252 engagements. Additionally, MOTOR has been able to participate in many community events and offer 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)* – Added 1 new social worker to the County's alternative crisis co-responder (paramedic and social worker) program, known as ACCORD (Albany County Crisis Officials Responding and Diverting). Unfortunately, spending under CDBG didn't begin until 4/1/22, and the new hire has since left County employment. While the County is actively recruiting to fill the vacancy, we have not been successful at this point in hiring for this position. We are hopeful that we will find the right candidate. Through the past 18 months there have been 1,826 services across 285 unique individuals. In spite of staffing challenges, there continues to be a critical need for ongoing expansion of these type of crisis services. Additional training opportunities and the purchase of interoperable communications equipment is ongoing and unique opportunities to enhance emergency response within the ACCORD program and best practices are being explored.

### Schedule of Milestones (Present – 12/31/2023)

#### Housing Remediation

- Construction contract executed; (subject to extension); all muni permits secured – May 2023
- Construction services completed (per reduced scope of work) – May-2023 – December 2023
- Project Closeout – December 2023

#### Mental Health System Supports

- *Project 1 (LEAD)* – This aspect of the grant is completed.
- *Project 2 (PSCC)* – Hiring under the CDBG award didn't start until 4/1/22. Due to the vacancy of one of the budgeted positions in this particular project, there is a small remaining balance in Personnel services. If the extension is granted, we would like to follow up with a request to reallocate this remaining balance to the Peer Advocate in 2023 that was hired as a part of this grant. The County

anticipates a continuation of the caseload experienced during the first 18 months, and to have completed the work plan by December of 2023. Albany County is confident that the budget will be exhausted by close of the grant.

- *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.
- *Project 4 (ACCORD)* – The County is actively recruiting to fill the vacancy, and we're optimistic that we'll find the right candidate. Additional training and the purchase of interoperable communications equipment is ongoing and it is our belief that these funds can be well utilized with an expanded time frame. However, because of the existing vacancy, it's unlikely that the Personnel portion of this budget (without a partial amendment or change to the original work plan) will be exhausted by close of the grant. A request for reallocation of part of these funds will be forthcoming.

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 cursive script that reads "Daniel P. McCoy".

Daniel P. McCoy  
Albany County Executive