



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION
175 GREEN STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12202
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Stephen J. Giordano, Ph.D.
Director of Mental Health

Cindy G. Hoffman, LCSW-R
Deputy Director

Daniel P. McCoy
County Executive

Michael P. McLaughlin, Jr.
Deputy County Executive

September 24, 2024
Honorable Joanne Cunningham, Chairwoman
Albany County Legislature
112 State St., Rm. 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham,

The Albany County Department of Mental Health (ACDMH) respectfully requests the authorization of a budget amendment to transfer funds from the Veteran Mental Health Peer Advocate positions into the "March On" Veteran's Department Budget Line. On August 12th of 2024, the County Legislature approved resolution 24-469, amending the 2024 Department of Mental Health Budget to establish mental health peer advocate positions for veterans. This authorized two peer advocate positions with lived military experience, with an annual salary of \$46,939 per advocate. However, after trying to hire for these roles for the past weeks, we believe changing the direction of these roles will prove more beneficial for Albany County and its veteran population.

We are requesting to amend the budget for the Department of Mental Health by transferring the funds originally allocated for the peer advocate positions back into the Veteran's Department "March On" budget line. By transferring these funds, we intend to add a new veterans-based care position into the 2025 budget with a higher paying salary to better fill the position.

The remaining funds will be utilized for wrap around services for veterans, and will be divided evenly between the Veteran's Department and Mental Health Department. Wrap around services may include food, blankets, IDs, security deposits, and other supports to enhance quality of life.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,
Stephen Giordano
Stephen Giordano, Ph.D.
Director

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

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Description (e.g., Contract Authorization for Information Services):

..title

Budget Amendment to Transfer Funds from the Veteran Mental Health Peer Advocate Positions into the "March On" Veteran's Budget Line

..body

Date: 9/24/2024 Submitted By: Christina Rust
Department: Mental Health Title: Policy Analyst
Attending Meeting: Dr. Giordano and Josh Beams Phone: 3049

Purpose of Request: Budget Amendment Enter text.

CONTRACT TERMS/CONDITIONS:

Party Names and Addresses:
Enter text.

Term: (Start/end date or duration) Enter text.
Amount/Raise Schedule/Fee: Enter text.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Is there a Fiscal Impact: Yes No
Anticipated in Budget: Yes No
Spreadsheet attached: Yes No

Source of Funding – (Percentages)

Federal: Enter text. County: 100%
State: Enter text. Local: Enter text.

County Budget Accounts:

Revenue Account and Line: Enter text.
Revenue Amount: Enter text.
Appropriation Account and Line: See Attached Budget Amendment
Appropriation Amount: \$70,878

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mandated Program/Service: Yes No
If Mandated, Cite Authority: Enter text.
Request for Bids / Proposals:
Competitive Bidding Exempt: Yes No
of Response(s): Enter text.
of MWBE: Enter text.
of Veteran Business: Enter text.
Bond Resolution No.: Enter text.
Apprenticeship Program Yes No

Previous requests for Identical or Similar Action:

Resolution/Law Number and Date: 24-469

DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST: (state briefly why legislative action is requested)

On August 12th of 2024, the Albany County Legislature approved resolution 24-469, amending the 2024 Department of Mental Health Budget to establish mental health peer advocate positions for veterans. This authorized two peer advocate positions with lived military experience, with an annual salary of \$46,939 per advocate. However, after trying to hire for these roles for the past weeks, we believe changing the direction of these roles will prove more beneficial for Albany County and its veteran population.

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Albany County Department of Mental Health

APPROPRIATIONS

BUDGET LINE DESCRIPTION INCREASE DECREASE UNIT COST DEPARTMENT NAME

FUND ORG OBJ PROJECT FOR POSITIONS ONLY

STATE POS. POSITION
CODE CONTROL

A9	4310	15027V	10000	001	430244	Peer Advocate - MH for Veteran	\$23,470	\$46,939	Mental Health
A9	4310	15027V	10000	002	430245	Peer Advocate - MH for Veteran	\$23,470	\$46,969	Mental Health
A9	4310	89010	10000			State Retirement	\$8,448	\$16,898	Mental Health
A9	4310	89030	10000			Social Security	\$3,755	\$7,510	Mental Health
A9	4310	89060	10000			Hospital & Medical Insurance	\$11,735	\$23,469	Mental Health
A9	6510	44019	10000			March On	\$70,878		Veterans Service Bureau
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS							\$70,878	\$70,878	

ESTIMATED REVENUES

USE WHOLE NUMBERS ONLY

BUDGET LINE DESCRIPTION DECREASE INCREASE UNIT COST DEPARTMENT NAME

FUND ORG OBJ PROJECT FOR POSITIONS ONLY

STATE POS. POSITION
CODE CONTROL

A	0000	00000	00000	000	000000		\$0	\$0	
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TOTAL REVENUES

\$0

\$0

GRAND TOTAL

\$70,878

\$70,878