



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION
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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 Second Chance Opportunities (SCO) in response to their application for funding through RFP #2026-086 Opioid Settlement Funded (OSF) Mini-Grants initiative. SCO will use these funds to expand their highly successful transportation program.

Launched in 2024, the Second Chance Opportunities Outreach Transportation (SCOOT) program uses Certified Recovery Peer Advocates (CRPAs) to provide transportation to individuals in recovery from substance use disorder. SCOOT provides rides to behavioral health and medical treatment appointments, support group meetings, treatment court, job interviews, and Social Services. Rides are reserved on-line and are generally scheduled a day in advance.

In 2024, SCO received an Albany County OSF Community Grant to expand the program by hiring a peer driver. In 2025, an additional grant was awarded to SCO for this program through the OSF Recovery Support Program initiative. These Mini-Grant funds will be used to support an additional estimated 1,250 rides over the next year.

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