



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 \$402,104 in Opioid Settlement Funding (OSF) to the Addiction Care Center of Albany (ACCA) for the purpose of staffing a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) and a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) at IPH's Emergency Shelters. These staff will provide outreach, engagement, screening, assessment, referral and substance use disorder treatment services to residents of IPH's four shelters, all located within Albany County. ACCA was selected for funding through a competitive grant application process and will implement this project over the next two (2) years.

The Addictions Care Center of Albany, Inc has provided an array of treatment services for substance use disorder since 1967; in 2024, they received an Albany County OSF Community Grant to provide housing support to individuals leaving residential treatment. IPH (formerly Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless) has provided emergency, transitional and permanent housing to Albany County residents for over forty years. IPH manages 3-year-round shelters and a seasonal Code Blue Overflow Shelter, as well as their Community Connections Resource Center, where the ACCA staff will be housed. The grant-funded staff will serve residents from each of IPH's shelters and those receiving services will be enrolled as clients of ACCA, ensuring that their treatment can continue once they leave the shelters. Along with efforts including the SYNC Collaboration and ACDMH's Street Psychiatry program, we see this initiative as a significant resource for Albany County's unhoused and at-risk populations.

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