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July 30, 2025

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 \$15,000 in Opioid Settlement Funding to Albany Medical College / Center in response to their proposal for funding through RFP #2025-084 Opioid Settlement Funded Treatment Provider Mini-Grants. AMC will use these funds establish a fund that will provide needed assistance to clients of the AMC Addiction Clinic. This assistance will focus on three key areas: 1) phones and basic phone plans; 2) government identification and, 3) transportation. These areas often serve as barriers to treatment access and stability and removing them will help ensure clients remain engaged in their treatment services.

Protocols will be established regarding who will be provided cell phones and phone plans. For those lacking IDs, grant funds will be used to cover the cost of a state-issued IDs as well as any supporting documentation that is missing. Transportation assistance will be provided through ride-sharing services like Uber and Lyft, as cab companies and Medicaid transportation have often refused calls from AMC.

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