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DANIEL C. LYNCH, ESQ.
DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 30, 2020

Honorable Andrew Joyce, Chairman
Albany County Legislature
112 State Street, Room 710
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Chairman Joyce:

The Office of the County Executive requests approval to apply for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance grant program. The New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) will act as a pass-through for the grant and disburse funding to Albany County. While the period for submitting the Request for Public Assistance is currently open, the County Executive's Office was advised to submit the application as soon as possible (which it did on April 10, 2020).

On March 20, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic was declared a major disaster in NYS. This authorized FEMA to provide Public Assistance program funding under the Stafford Act to local governments for emergency protective measures. In general, these reimbursement eligible emergency protective measures may include: management, control and reduction of immediate threats to public health and safety; emergency medical care; medical sheltering; purchase and distribution of food; and force account overtime costs.

FEMA's Public Assistance program is a payer of last resort, so assistance cannot be duplicated by other federal funding streams. Additionally, Public Assistance funding is authorized at 75% federal cost share; NYS will determine how the non-federal share (up to 25%) is split with Albany County. Determinations about what can be claimed without duplicating funding, as well as how much is ultimately awarded are ongoing.

Since the claim process involves coordinating Public Assistance and other sources of federal funding across County departments, the County Executive's Office and the Division of Management and Budget will aggregate and submit reimbursement claims on behalf of all County departments, including: Department of Health; Shaker Place Rehabilitation and Nursing Center; Department of Mental Health; Probation Department; Department of Social Services; Department for the Aging; Department of General Services; Department of Public Works; Division of Information Services; and others as appropriate.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive

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