



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION
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April 4, 2024

Honorable Joanne Cunningham
Chairwoman
Albany County Legislature
112 State Street
Room 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham,

The Department of Mental Health requests permission to award \$175,000 in Opioid Settlement Funding to Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services (CCCCS) for the purpose of expanding and supporting the continued operation of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program. This project was selected for funding through a competitive grant application process and will be implemented over the next year. CCCC has been a valuable partner to the Department of Mental Health and the LEAD program has resulted in scores of individuals being diverted to substance use disorder treatment in lieu of arrest. The LEAD program is a model for other law enforcement diversion efforts and plays a valuable role in combatting the opioid epidemic.

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
Arnis Zilgme, Minority Counsel