



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION
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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 \$14,809 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 to support research on the use of oral ketamine and buprenorphine for pain control in AMC's emergency department.

Based on published research, AMC has begun to use oral ketamine and buprenorphine for pain management in their emergency department. The goal is to reduce the use of opioids for acute pain in the ED (while buprenorphine is an opioid, it has less adverse effects and doesn't lead to tolerance like other opioids). The proposed project will partially fund a research coordinator who will interview patients who were given ketamine and buprenorphine in the ED about how well their pain was managed. AMC hopes to leverage this project to receive a larger research grant and to add to the knowledge base for alternatives to traditional opioids.

In addition to their Alternative to Opioids Pain Management program, which focuses on chronic pain, this project demonstrates AMC's commitment to reducing the number of patients provided with opioids in the hospital, ultimately reducing the number of individuals at risk of developing an opioid use disorder or experiencing an opioid overdose.

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