



**COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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Director of Mental Health*

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November 22, 2021

Honorable Andrew Joyce, Chairman
Albany County Legislature
112 State St., Rm. 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairman Joyce,

The Department of Mental Health respectfully requests to formally waive residency requirements in order to interview and retain critical social workers who do not reside in Albany County, as needed, in the Mental Health Department.

We have diligently sought qualified applicants for the positions of Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) for full-time positions and have been unable to locate a sufficient number of qualified applicants who reside in Albany County. We are, therefore, requesting to be permitted to continue to hire social work personnel in all categories who may not live in our County.

We respectfully request to waive residency requirements in order to hire critical social workers who do not reside in the County of Albany. It should be noted that we will continue to secure required social workers who reside in the County of Albany.

Feel free to contact Mark Gleason or me if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,

Stephen Giordano, Ph.D.
Director

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