



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION
175 GREEN STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12202
518-447-4537 FAX 518-447-4577
WWW.ALBANYCOUNTY.COM

Daniel P. McCoy
County Executive

Michael P. McLaughlin, Jr.
Deputy County Executive

Stephen J. Giordano, Ph.D.
Director of Mental Health

Cindy G. Hoffman, LCSW-R
Deputy Director

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 \$140,000 in Opioid Settlement Funding to CHESS Health in response to their proposal for funding through RFP #2025-085 Opioid Settlement Funded Recovery Support App. CHESS Health's proposal received the highest score from the review team and their budget was competitive with the other submitted proposals.

This funding will provide clients of Albany County's human service departments (Mental Health, Health, Social Services, Crime Victims) as well as five community agencies with two years of licenses and technical support for CHESS Health's *Connections* e-recovery app, along with *Conexiones* (the Spanish language version of the app) and the *Companion* app for family members and caregivers. Albany County and the community agencies will receive technical support to set up the app with their own logos, resources and events and a plan to promote it to their clients. Users of the app will receive onboarding assistance and will have access to *Connections*' peer-monitored chat, online recovery meetings, self-directed Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) training, and wealth of resources (videos, meditations, playlists, podcasts, .pdfs) to assist them in their recovery, all of which will be available 24 hours a day.

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