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October 9, 2020

Hon. Andrew Joyce, Chairman
Legislative Clerk's Office
112 State St., Room 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairman Joyce,

The Department of Social Services respectfully requests legislative approval for the following:

Authorization is requested to contract with Equinox, Inc. to provide Albany County with a 24-hour domestic violence hotline and walk-in assistance center. Equinox will also coordinate residential placements, information and referral, advocacy, counseling and outreach/education services to victims residing in the community or in non-domestic violence shelter facilities.

Equinox will provide two service types. CORE SERVICES:

Non Residential Domestic Violence Services (NRDV). Equinox is a state-qualified provider of domestic violence hotline services, information and referral, advocacy, counseling services and community outreach and education services as mandated by NYS under 18 NYCRR Part 462. Equinox will provide continuation of existing core services including a case manager for triage/referral and coordination of domestic violence (DV) residential placements to Equinox and other shelters. Equinox is a 24/7 domestic violence operation and will provide immediate assessment, safety planning as well as ensuring that shelter needs of all legitimate victims are met. Funding for core services is \$130,835.

TANF Services (NON-CORE SERVICES): Expanded advocacy services will be provided to 25 TANF-eligible victims of domestic violence to ensure and enhance the safety of victims and to increase opportunities for self-sufficiency and violence-free living. Assistance to victims will be provided in the form of accompaniment to legal system entities, health care facilities, social welfare system agencies and other community service providers. Linkages to other specialized services will be provided consistent with developed safety and service plans. The current funding for the TANF services portion of the contract is \$35,031.

Sincerely,

Michele G. McClave
Commissioner

cc: Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader
Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel
Minority Counsel