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January 15, 2021

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:

Via Resolution No. 341, Adopted 10/13/2020 authorization was granted to renew agreements with two providers of home establishment furnishing (Bass Furniture and City Discount Furniture) in the amount of \$200,000. As the Albany County Department of Social Services is always looking for additional vendors we are requesting to add Furniture Liquidators and Homeless and Traveler's Aid (HATAS) to the eligible list for DSS clients.

Furniture Liquidators would supply strictly new home establishment items while HATAS would provide new mattresses and used furniture at or below NYS established rates. Note HATAS has stringent cleaning protocols in place. The potential of having four providers to choose from will benefit DSS clients to better ensure adequate furnishings are available. No additional funding is attached to this requested.

Local Social Services districts are required to provide for the purchase of necessary and essential furniture, furnishings, equipment and supplies required for the establishment of a home for persons in need of public assistance when provision of such cannot otherwise be made. The rule applies when an eligible household or member of such is relocating to permanent housing from an institution, residential program, or other temporary living situation or when an individual or family must be re-housed in unfurnished housing due to health and safety concerns involving their current accommodations.

Sincerely,

Michele G. McClave  
Commissioner

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