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September 22, 2021

Mr. Rob Corpora
County Administrator
60 Central Avenue
Cortland, New York 13045

Dear Mr. Corpora:

Please accept this request for financial support in the amount of \$100,000 from American Rescue Plan funds for Family & Children's Counseling Services.

We have been struggling with funding for some time to support our services in Cortland County, especially in relation to our school-based clinics (we are providing services in every school building in the County), children's services and our addictions programs. While we have received State support for COLAs for our direct services staff over the past few years (2% COLAs that have been required to be passed along immediately to our direct care staff which we are happy to do), COLAs for support and other admin staff have never been included in our state aid award or Medicaid reimbursement rates. In addition, other costs (occupancy, cyber insurance, IT infrastructure, etc.) have continued to climb. In fact, our health care insurance alone has increased by over 70% in the past five years. Added to that, staffing issues are reaching a critical point in terms of retention and recruitment of licensed, highly credentialed staff.

The attached document highlights these many issues and supports our request for funding. If it is possible to have time to present this request in person on 9/28, I would greatly appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa W. Hoeschele
ED & CEO