



MOHAWK VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM
PO Box 479, Utica, NY 13503-0479
P: 315-624-6000
mvhealthsystem.org

December 8, 2022

Ms. Shawna Papale
Oneida County Local Development Corp.
584 Phoenix Drive
Rome, NY 13440

Dear Ms. Papale:

The Mohawk Valley Health System (MVHS) has commenced several new Graduate Medical Education programs. One of the main objectives of our programs is to train medical residents who upon program completion will remain in our community and contribute to the physician work force and serve our local community.

Our assessment of need indicates that there will continue to be a shortage of general surgeons locally. We are especially focused on the recruitment of surgeons with specialized knowledge in the primary components of surgery. Therefore, MVHS is requesting grant money for assistance with the recruitment of program faculty.

According to a study by the National Residency Match Program (NRMP, aka "The Match") in 2022, applicants rated the following factors in applying to a residency program on a rating scale from 1 (not important) to 5 (extremely important):

- Quality of educational curriculum and training: 4.5
- Quality of faculty: 4.4
- Work / life balance: 4.3

Having an adequate number of quality core faculty members within a residency program has a direct impact on the factors listed above as resident education consists of extensive interaction with faculty. Core faculty members are responsible for bedside clinical training and supervision, simulation training, preforming didactic lectures, serving as personal mentors and advisors to our residents as well as evaluations. Faculty assist with providing coverage for residents enabling them to step away from patient care responsibilities to attend lectures and also provide the opportunity to leave their clinical responsibilities when necessary to prevent "burn out".

The ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) defines a core faculty member as "All physician faculty members who have a significant role in the education of residents / fellows and who have documented qualifications to instruct and supervise." We currently have 2 core faculty members and 6 residents. The ACGME requires that by 2026 we must have at least 6 core faculty members. By 2026, we will have 18 General Surgery residents and will need several more core faculty members in order to provide adequate resident training, support, and supervision. With an average salary of \$450,000, the total cost for the additional 4 core faculty members is projected to be around \$1.8 million dollars annually. If we are not able to sustain the cost of acquiring more faculty members, the General Surgery Residency Program will not only find



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recruitment of new residents difficult, but if not achieved by 2026, the program will be at risk of closure for non-accreditation by the ACGME.

If awarded, the requested grant funding will be allocated for salary support for our much needed General Surgery core faculty members. It is our belief that our faculty members play an important part in the quality of education and support for our residents and a vital role to the success of our residency programs.

While the retention of these residents in our community will have a positive impact, faculty and program coordinators permanently locating here will provide a long-term positive impact.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Louis Aiello", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Louis Aiello

Sr. VP / Chief Financial Officer