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MEMORANDUM

TO: Julie Cohen Lonstein, UCEDA Chair
FROM: Elliott Auerbach, Comptroller
DATE: March 8, 2018
RE: Ready2Go Program and UCEDA Review

I've received your letter, and thank you for expressing your concerns. While it's fully the prerogative of the Board to make the determination that you described, I question whether my Office's review has created an awareness of the Ready2Go program that was not there before.

Our preliminary recommendations that will be incorporated within our report include requiring greater detail and documentation to sufficiently substantiate invoice totals, work performance, and outcomes, as well as enhancing oversight surrounding contracted parties and beneficiaries of the project to document possible conflicts of interest. We suggest the Board should clarify and adhere to contractual provisions requiring thorough and complete invoice itemizations for this modification.

Regarding our underestimated completion time, I trust you'll appreciate the extensive research and analysis it takes to comprehensively review a year and a half's worth of activity by UCEDA. Several issues and questions pertaining to the Ready2Go program alone have necessitated significant clarification, coming to light only as we continue to explore the plethora of facts in front of us. The same can be said for much of the other programming that you offer.

Additionally, the majority of the materials we've relied upon for testing purposes were neither readily apparent nor immediately available at the onset of review. Despite UCEDA's general responsiveness to our requests, each inquiry requires roughly a week to answer and has thus added to our timeframe.

We will strive to provide you a draft report as soon as practicable, but at this point we would not advise delaying action that is time sensitive.

The mission of the Ulster County Comptroller's Office is to serve as an independent agency of the people, to protect the public interest by monitoring County government and to assess and report on the degree to which its operation is economical, efficient and its financial condition sound