



# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

for

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

August 6, 2021

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman  
Fiscal Committee of the General Court  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

### REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a VI, authorize the Governor's Office For Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) to accept and expend in an amount not to exceed \$40,042,503 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA2) financial assistance funds in a new accounting unit to fund the New Hampshire Emergency Rental Assistance Program (NHERAP), effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. This is an allowable use of ERA2 Financial Assistance funds under ARPA, section 3201(d) to provide financial assistance to eligible households, not to exceed 18 months, including the payment of rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utilities and home energy costs arrears, and other expenses related to housing as allowed by U.S. Treasury to help keep households stably housed. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds are to be budgeted in FY2022 in the following account:

01-02-002-0202-Governor's Office of Emergency Relief and Recovery, 24310000 <sup>1</sup> - ARP Emergency Rental Assistance Fund				
Class	Account	FY22 Current Modified Budget	Requested Amount	FY22 Revised Budget
<b>Expenditures</b>				
040-Indirect Costs	501587	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
041-Audit Fund Set Aside	500801	\$ -	\$ 40,003	\$ 40,003
072-Grants Federal	500575	\$ -	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,000,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		\$ -	\$ 40,042,503	\$ 40,042,503
<b>Revenue</b>				
000-Federal Funds	400338	\$ -	\$ 40,042,503	\$ 40,042,503
<b>Total Revenue</b>		\$ -	\$ 40,042,503	\$ 40,042,503

<sup>1</sup> GOFERR will assign activities as appropriate for these expenditures and all expenditures will utilize an activity within the ERAP activity group. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

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Funds are budgeted as follows:

**Class 040 – Indirect Costs**

**Class 041 – Audit Fund Set-Aside - .001 of federal funds payable to DAS for audit fees**

**Class 072 – Grants out of Federal Funds as described in the explanation**

### **EXPLANATION**

GOFERR is requesting to accept and expend \$40,042,503 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA2) financial assistance funds to support the New Hampshire Emergency Rental Assistance Program (NHERAP).

Housing stability and access to affordable housing were a problem in New Hampshire before the pandemic and they have been exacerbated by it. More than 50 percent of New Hampshire households reported losing at least some income as a result of the pandemic. As a result, many tenants fell behind in rent, putting their housing at risk, and stressing the finances of landlords as well.

NHERAP provides financial assistance and housing stability services to eligible households that have lost income or experienced other financial hardship because of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, including the payment of (i) rent, (ii) rental arrears, (iii) utilities and home energy costs, (iv) utilities and home energy costs arrears, and (v) other expenses related to housing.

To date, NHERAP has been funded from federal funds made available pursuant to Section 501(a) of Division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (ERA1). ERA2 provides the same financial assistance provided under ERA1 for a greater number of households. Under ERA1, an eligible household must have experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship *due to* COVID-19. ERA2 has the potential to serve a greater number of households because an eligible household need only show that it experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship *during* COVID-19. Additionally, under ERA2 households may receive 3 additional months of assistance. Further, while the State has not yet expended all of the ERA1 funds allocated, switching to ERA2 at this time will allow the State an opportunity to maintain its full allocation under ERA2 funding and expand the uses of that funding to include “affordable rental housing and eviction prevention activities, as defined by [U.S. Treasury] serving very low-income families.”

NHERAP is administered by New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA), in collaboration with the Governor’s Office For Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR). NHHFA is working with the five regional Community Action Partnerships (CAPs), which are accepting and processing applications and payments for the program.

All sub-grantees selected by NHHFA shall use the funding only to address NHERAP allowable costs.

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In the event that Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,



Taylor Caswell  
Executive Director.