New Hampshire Employment Security
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"We're working to keep New Hampshire working"

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October 7, 2021

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

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a VI, New Hampshire Employment Security (NHES) respectfully requests authorization to accept and expend $1,023,000 in American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) in a new accounting unit, to fund a recruitment and retention bonus program for transportation employers. This is an allowable use of ARP SFRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(A) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. **100% Federal Funds.**

Funds are to be budgeted in a new accounting unit, ARP FRF Transportation Recruitment Program, 02-027-027-270010-24XX0000[1] as follows:

02-027-027-270010-24XX0000 Employment Security-ARP Transportation Recruitment Funds			SFY 2022		
Class	Account	Class Description	Current Budget	Requested Action	Revised Budget
000	400338	FEDERAL FUNDS	$0	($1,023,000)	($1,023,000)
TOTAL REVENUE:			$0	($1,023,000)	($1,023,000)
020	500200	CURRENT EXPENSES	$0	$900	$900
022	500248	RENTS-LEASES OTHER THAN STA	$0	$400	$400
023	500291	HEAT ELECTRICITY WATER	$0	$1,000	$1,000
024	500225	MAINT OTHER THAN BUILD-GRN	$0	$750	$750
027	582703	TRANSFERS TO DOIT	$0	$1,500	$1,500
039	500188	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	$0	$750	$750
040	500800	INDIRECT COSTS	$0	$500	$500
041	500801	AUDIT FUND SET ASIDE	$0	$1,023	$1,023
042	500620	ADDITIONAL FRINGE BENEFITS	$0	$898	$898
048	500226	CONTRACTUAL MAINT BUILD-GRN	$0	$600	$600
050	500109	PERSONAL SERVICE TEMP APPOI	$0	$10,157	$10,157
060	500601	BENEFITS	$0	$4,172	$4,172
072	500573	GRANTS FEDERAL	$0	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
103	500740	CONTRACTS FOR OP SERVICES	$0	$350	$350
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:			$0	$1,023,000	$1,023,000

[1] All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2702A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2702Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

EXPLANATION

NHES is requesting to accept and expend American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) to support the recruitment and retention bonus program for transportation employers.

The purpose of the recruitment and retention bonus program for transportation employers is to assist small to medium size freight and/or passenger transportation employers in New Hampshire be able to recruit and retain employees into positions requiring a commercial driver's license (CDL). This program will run in conjunction with the existing WorkInvestNH program administered by NHES that provides grants to New Hampshire for-profit employers for 50% of qualifying training costs for existing and new employees. This program will then provide additional supports to employers that provide freight and/or passenger transportation and have fleets of 20 vehicles or less requiring an operator with a CDL to be able to apply for up to $2,000 to be then passed on to each qualifying employee. The employer would apply for a $1,500 payment per employee when the employee successfully completes CDL certification and then an additional $500 per employee when the employee completes six (6) months in a position requiring CDL certification. As consumer preferences continue to shift, we need to assist our New Hampshire based transportation providers with their ability to attract the workforce necessary to move the necessary freight and passengers to keep our economy rolling. The state experienced a 10% decline in CDL drivers from January of 2020 to July 2021.

Class 020 Current Expense - The funds will be used to pay for necessary office supplies associated with positions working on the program.

Class 022 Rents/Leases Other than State – The funds will be used to support the portion of office/postal equipment rental costs associated with the positions involved in the program.

Class 023 Heat, Electricity, Water – The funds will be used to support the portion of facility utility costs associated with the positions involved in the program.

Class 024 Maintenance, Other than Building/Grounds – The funds will be used to support the portion of office equipment maintenance costs associated with the positions involved in the program.

Class 027 Transfer to DoIT – The funds will be used to support the portion of centralized IT costs associated with the positions involved in the program.

Class 039 Telecommunications – The funds will be used to support the portion of telecommunications costs (data and voice) associated with the positions involved in the program.

Class 040 Indirect Costs – The funds will be used to pay indirect costs associated with additional federal funding.

Class 041 Audit Fee Set Aside – The funds will be used to pay audit fee set aside associated with federal funding to comply with RSA 124:16 that requires all agencies which receive federal funds to set aside a percentage (0.1%) of the federal revenue amount received to pay for financial and compliance audits.

Class 042 Additional Fringe Benefits – The funds will be used to pay post-retirement costs associated with the positions involved in the program.

Class 048 Contractual Maintenance, Building/Grounds – The funds will be used to support the portion of building maintenance costs associated with the positions involved in the program, such as cleaning services, HVAC and security system maintenance.

Class 050 Personal Service, Temporary – The funds will be used to support the portions of salaries of several existing FT positions responsible for providing services under the program.

Class 060 Benefits – The funds will be used to support the fringe benefit costs associated with salary costs of positions working on the program.

Class 072 Grants – Federal – the funds will be used to support/track the payment of recruitment and retention bonuses under this program.

Class 103 Contracts for Operational Services– The funds will be used to support the portion of agency operating services contract costs associated with the positions involved in the program, such as trash removal and shredding services.

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

Respectfully submitted,

George N. Copadis
Commissioner

GNC/jdr