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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

for

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

December 6, 2021

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court

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 \$411,241 in Emergency Rental Assistance Housing Stability Services Funds (ERA2) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fund the Evacuee Resettlement Program to provide housing stability services including housing navigators and housing case managers to help each Afghan individual and family secure housing and apply for federal rental relief through NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program. This is an allowable use under the Emergency Rental Assistance program established by Section 3201 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ERA2), effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. **100% Federal Funds.**

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

01-02-002-0202-24310000¹ ARP Rental Assistance Fund		<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2022</u>
<u>CLASS</u>	<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>CURRENT MODIFIED BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET REQUEST</u>	<u>REVISED BUDGET</u>
EXPENDITURES				
040 – Indirect Costs	501587	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
041 – Audit Fund Set Aside	500801	\$40,003	\$411	\$40,414
072 – Grants Federal	500575	\$40,000,000	\$408,330	\$40,408,330
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$40,042,503	\$411,241	\$40,453,744
SOURCE OF FUNDS				
000 – Federal Funds	400338	\$40,042,503	\$411,241	\$40,453,744
TOTAL REVENUE		\$40,042,503	\$411,241	\$40,453,744

¹ 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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EXPLANATION

Approval of this funding will provide housing stability services including housing navigators and housing case managers to help each Afghan individual and family secure housing and apply for federal rental relief through NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

The unexpected evacuation to the United States of over one hundred thousand men, women and children from Afghanistan has created the need for a nationwide refugee resettlement response. In order to provide adequate support for the successful integration of at least 250 individuals expected to arrive in New Hampshire, federal refugee resettlement funding will need to be supplemented to support access to housing. Supplemental funding is needed because it is anticipated that evacuees will be arriving at a rate much greater than the typical refugee flow during a time when the rental market in New Hampshire is especially tight. This combination of rapid influx and limited housing opportunities will require more staffing to handle the more intensive case management that will be provided by resettlement agencies.

Housing stability services will provide essential support needed for the evacuees to quickly become successful, tax-paying residents integrated into the New Hampshire economy and contribute to the State's diversity, growth and prosperity. Past experience shows that by providing adequate initial support during the first 90 days following arrival, resettled populations experience rapid growth in median household incomes as they find meaningful work and help strengthen the New Hampshire economy.

The budget would be divided between subaward agreements with the two qualified providers of refugee services in New Hampshire – Ascentria and International Institute of New England. The budgets are based on each agency adding a fulltime rental assistance coordinator and a fulltime housing sourcing manager as well as contracted interpreters. The overall budget includes a cap on indirect administrative costs of 7.5% for the service agencies and 1% for New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) and the agreement will have a termination date of December 31, 2022.

Funds are being budgeted in the classes listed below as follows:

Class 040 – Indirect Costs to recover, per by RSA 21-I:75, a proportional share of the outside funding source to alleviate agency indirect costs.

Class 041 – Audit Fund Set Aside to comply with RSA 124:16 that requires all agencies that receive federal funds to set aside a percentage (0.1%) of the federal revenue amount received to pay for financial and compliance audits.

Class 072 – Grants-Federal to provide funding for grants to sub-grantees.

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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, GOFERR