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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 Department of Education (DOE) to accept and expend in an amount not to exceed $400,644 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds to fund the College and Career Skills Mentoring Pilot Program to provide support for Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Hampshire (BBBSNH) preliminary use of Mentor 2.0, which provides one-on-one technology enhanced mentoring to high school students, who are low-income and would be first generation college students. This program providing Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities is an allowable use of ARP FRF 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. The department will return to fiscal in FY24 to amend this item to extend December 31, 2024. **100% Federal Funds.**

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

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06-56-56-562010-24XX0000-C&C Mentoring Program-ARP FRF		**FY2022**	**FY2022**	**FY2022**
CLASS	**ACCOUNT**	**CURRENT MODIFIED BUDGET**	**BUDGET REQUEST**	**REVISED BUDGET**
EXPENDITURES				
029 – Intragency Transfers	500290	$0	$15,000	$15,000
040 – Indirect Costs	501587	$0	$7,457	$7,457
041 – Audit Fund Set Aside	500801	$0	$385	$385
042 – Additional Fringe Benefits	500620	$0	$17,802	$17,802
50 – Personal Service Temp	500109	$0	$45,000	$45,000
60 – Benefits	500601	$0	$15,000	$15,000
072 – Grants-Federal	500575	$0	$300,000	$300,000
TOTAL EXPENSES			**$400,644**	**$400,644**
SOURCE OF FUNDS				
000 – Federal Funds	400374	$0	**$400,644**	**$400,644**
TOTAL REVENUE				

EXPLANATION

Approval of this funding will provide an evidence-based technology-enhanced one-on-one mentoring program for low-income high school students at West High School in Manchester. The program follows a cohort model where by mentors are matched with high school students, typically freshmen, and work with them through a curriculum that builds skills for college and career success. Weekly online communication involves writing activities that discuss professionalism, perseverance, self-advocacy, college financial aid, and career choices. Monthly in-person meetings, sponsored by BBBSNH, will also be held.

This pilot program will be conducted with students who attend West High School in collaboration with New Hampshire GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), a federally funded program managed by the New Hampshire College and University Council, a federal program funded by the U.S. Department of Education with a mission to significantly increase the number of low-income middle and high school students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

The funding will support a subaward agreement with the BBBSNH. The $100,000 per year budget will be used for personnel related costs, including new hires and supporting existing staff implementing the new iMentor platform and related initiatives. The agreement will have a termination date of September 30, 2024, with a three month clean up period.

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

Class 029 – Intra-gency Transfers	Appropriation to internal program support.
Class 040 – Indirect Cost	Appropriation to support Statewide Costs Allocation Plan.

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Class 041 – Audit Fund Set Aside	Appropriation is based on 1% of the grant.
Class 042 – Post-Retirement Benefits	Appropriation to cover post retirement costs at the current rate of 9.89 percent.
Class 050 - Part Time Salaries	Appropriation to support cost allocation for current full-time position.
Class 060 – Benefits	Appropriation to cover benefit expenses for cost allocated positions.
Class 072 – Grants-Federal	Appropriation to provide funding to sub-grantees.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Edelblut
Commissioner of Education