



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC & HOUSING STABILITY

Lori A. Shabinette
Commissioner

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August 16, 2022

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

APPROVED BY FISCAL COMMITTEE

SEP 09 2022

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 14:30-a, VI, Additional Revenues, authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Child Support Services to accept and expend Federal funds in the amount of \$630,000 effective upon date of Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council approval through June 30, 2023, and further authorize the allocation of these funds in the accounts below. 100% Federal Funds.

05-95-42-427010-79340000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVCS, HHS: HUMAN SERVICES, CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES, EXPEDITED IV-D SERVICES

Table with 5 columns: Class/Object, Class Title, Current Authorized Budget, Requested Change, Adjusted Budget. Rows include Revenue (000-403955-16 Federal Funds) and Expense (085-588510 Inter Agency XFR Out of FED Funds) with sub-totals.

EXPLANATION

The Department of Health and Human Services requests to add Federal funds to Accounting Unit #79340000 for Expedited IV-D Services. The Bureau of Child Support Services is responsible for administering a statewide child support establishment and enforcement program under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. Federal Authority, 45 CFR 303.101, requires that State IV-D child support agencies have in effect and use formal expedited processes to establish and enforce child support orders. The New Hampshire Constitution, Part A, Article 73-A, places responsibility for administration of all of the courts on the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

IV-D child support cases are scheduled before marital masters and child support referees in Circuit Courts in all ten counties of New Hampshire. Pursuant to NH RSA 490-D, and RSA 490-F, marital masters and child support referees are authorized to hear marital matters, paternity and support cases, and Uniform Family Support Act actions. The Expedited Process Program is administered in the Circuit Court by the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court.

The Bureau of Child Support Services has had an agreement with the Administrative Office of the Courts since 1987, which authorizes Federal reimbursement, through the Bureau of Child Support Services for the approved costs associated with the Expedited Process Program. In recent review of the cost projections of the Expedited Process Program by the Bureau of Child Support Services and the Administrative Office of the Courts, it was determined that the time studies used by the Court to calculate the monthly reimbursement were inaccurate and monthly reimbursement requests have been understated. Steps have now been implemented to accurately capture the time spent on reimbursement activities, but the current amount of Federal funds appropriated is insufficient. This request is to appropriate additional Federal funds in order to carry out the required Expedited Process Program.

The funds in this request represent one hundred (100%) percent of the Federal Financial Participation funds that the Administrative Office of the Courts is reimbursed for IV-D services. The Bureau of Child Support Services received these funds from the Federal Administration for Children and Families and disburses them to the Administrative Office of the Courts. If these Federal funds are not accepted by the State, they will be allocated to other states by the Federal Government.

Funds are being budgeted as follows:

Class 085 – The funds will be used to pay for the Expedited Process Program as established for the purpose of handling domestic and marital IV-D cases.

Area served: Statewide.

Source of Funds: 100% Federal Funds.

If Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support the program expenditures.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner