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The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

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October 31, 2022

The Honorable Karen Umberger, 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, authorize the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to accept and expend \$750,000 in Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust funds for the purpose of continuing emergency financial assistance to low-income New Hampshire homeowners served by residential wells experiencing irreversible water supply quantity or quality problems, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. 100% Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund.

Funding is to be appropriated as follows:

Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust
03-44-44-444010-74280000
FY 2023

Class	Budget Category	Current Budget	Requested Action	Revised Budget
Income				
009-401831	DWG Trust Funds	(\$111,374,770)	(\$750,000)	(\$112,124,770)
Expenditures				
010-500100	Personnel Services Perm	\$1	0	\$1
018-500106	Overtime	\$18,168	0	\$18,168
020-500200	Current Expenses	\$13,649	0	\$13,649
022-500255	Rents-Leases Other than State	\$1,000	0	\$1,000
024-500225	Maint Other than Blg/Grd	\$200	0	\$200
027-582703	Transfers to OIT	\$64,980	0	\$64,979

Class	Budget Category	Current Budget	Requested Action	Revised Budget
028-582814	Transfers to General Services	\$23,579	0	\$23,579
030-500321	Equipment	\$6,872	0	\$6,872
039-500188	Telecommunications	\$5,146	0	\$5,146
040-500800	Indirect Costs	\$89,319	0	\$89,319
042-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	\$54,200	0	\$54,200
049-584920	Transfers to Other Agencies	\$140,403	0	\$140,403
050-500109	Personnel Services Temp	\$398,187	0	\$398,187
059-500117	Personnel Services Temp Full Time	\$423,409	0	\$423,409
060-500601	Benefits	\$427,956	0	\$427,956
066-500544	Employee Training	\$8,130	0	\$8,130
070-500705	Instate Travel	\$2,797	0	\$2,797
073-500580	Grants - Non federal	\$45,725,187	0	\$45,725,187
080-500710	Out-of-State Travel	\$4,500	0	\$4,500
101-500729	Medical Payments to Provider	\$1,000	0	\$1,000
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	\$3,170,689	0	\$3,170,689
300-500830	Reimbursements	\$931,833	\$750,000	\$1,681,833
301-504059	Loans	\$59,863,565	0	\$59,863,565
	Total	\$111,374,770	\$750,000	\$112,124,770

EXPLANATION

On February 14, 2022, the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) Advisory Commission awarded \$500,000 to NHDES for the Water Assistance for Natural Disaster Impacts to Low-Income Residential Well Owners program (referred to as WAND). The program is intended to provide financial assistance in the form of reimbursements for qualifying low-income New Hampshire homeowners served by private residential wells that are experiencing irreversible water supply quantity or water quality problems due to extreme weather events or natural hazards such as flooding. The WAND program is intended to provide financial assistance to repair or replace the compromised water supply.

On September 26, 2022, the DWGTF Advisory Commission awarded the additional \$750,000 to NHDES to continue the WAND program and provide financial assistance for qualifying low-income New Hampshire homeowners. Since initiation of the program in August 2022, NHDES has received 57 applications to replace residential wells that have failed due to the ongoing drought. The first 26 applications approved for financial assistance have exhausted the initial funding. With persistent drought conditions in southern portions of the state, NHDES continues to receive 2-3 applications

per a week since September. As of October 28, 2022 there are 24 pending applications that qualify based on water supply issues and household income, but there are insufficient funds to address the needs of these pending applications.

These additional funds will enable NHDES to continue to approve projects and directly reimburse licensed well installers providing services to eligible homeowners, thereby relieving the financial burden of low-income homeowners.

NHDES is requesting to budget these additional funds as shown below:

Class 300 To reimburse costs incurred by eligible homeowners whose wells have experienced irreversible water supply quantity or water quality problems for remedies to include, but not limited to, a temporary auxiliary storage tank and bulk water, increasing supply capacity, increasing storage capacity, lowering an existing well pump, deepening an existing well, installing a replacement well, and water quality sampling and treatment of the deepened/replacement well.

We respectfully request your approval.



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner