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GEORGE N. COPADIS, COMMISSIONER
 RICHARD J. LAVERS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

November 15, 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, New Hampshire Employment Security (NHES) respectfully requests authorization to accept and expend \$2,535,030 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) to fund the New Hampshire Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Training Program that will improve the ability for New Hampshire licensed Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Units providing emergency and non-emergency transportation and emergency response services to be able to better attract, train and retain employees certified as emergency medical technicians. This is an allowable use of ARPA 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, ARPA Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Training Program, 02-027-027-270010-NEWXXXXX as follows¹:

02-027-027-270010-NEWXXXXX Employment Security- ARP Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Training Program			SFY 2023		
Class	Account	Class Description	Current Budget	Requested Action	Revised Budget
000	400338-16	FEDERAL FUNDS	\$0	(\$2,535,030)	(\$2,535,030)
TOTAL REVENUE:			\$0	(\$2,535,030)	(\$2,535,030)
020	500200	CURRENT EXPENSES	\$0	\$5,700	\$5,700
022	500248	RENTS-LEASES OTHER THAN STA	\$0	\$3,600	\$3,600
023	500291	HEAT ELECTRICITY WATER	\$0	\$7,200	\$7,200
024	500225	MAINT OTHER THAN BUILD-GRN	\$0	\$2,900	\$2,900

¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2703A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2703Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

NHES is a proud member of America's Workforce Network and NH Works. NHES is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Auxiliary Aids and Services are available on request of individuals with disabilities

Class	Account	Class Description	Current Budget	Requested Action	Revised Budget
027	582703	TRANSFERS TO DOIT	\$0	\$13,030	\$13,030
039	500188	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$0	\$8,700	\$8,700
040	500800	INDIRECT COSTS	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500
041	500801	AUDIT FUND SET ASIDE	\$0	\$2,530	\$2,530
042	500620	ADDITIONAL FRINGE BENEFITS	\$0	\$9,000	\$9,000
048	500226	CONTRACTUAL MAINT BUILD-GRN	\$0	\$5,300	\$5,300
050	500109	PERSONAL SERVICE TEMP APPOI	\$0	\$120,300	\$120,300
060	500601	BENEFITS	\$0	\$50,270	\$50,270
072	500573	GRANTS FEDERAL	\$0	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000
103	500741	CONTRACTS FOR OP SERVICES	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:			\$0	\$2,535,030	\$2,535,030

EXPLANATION

NHES is requesting to accept and expend American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) to support the New Hampshire EMT Training Program.

New Hampshire and the nation continue to experience a workforce shortfall exacerbated not only by the Global Pandemic but also by the increased demand for workers created by a growing employer base in the Granite State. Recovery by New Hampshire employers has not been evenly experienced, as the service sectors continue to lag behind compared to workforce levels from just a few years ago. These service sector shortages are felt throughout the health care sector. However, within the health care sector, there are certain service providers that are not able to attract sufficient workforce which in turn creates a disproportionate impact felt throughout the health care delivery system. New Hampshire licensed EMS Units providing emergency and non-emergency ambulatory services are uniquely positioned within the health care sector so that workforce shortages have a butterfly effect in terms of impact.

While employers in the health care service sector in general have greater demand for workforce than current supply, the shortage within the emergency and non-emergency ambulatory provider community, complicates the entire health care delivery system. These employers are licensed by the NH Department of Safety and include private ambulance companies, public employers with emergency and first responder services and private employers with emergency medical service capabilities. The good news is that shortages experienced within the emergency and non-emergency ambulatory provider community lend themselves to being alleviated through a targeted funding solution. By precisely targeting funding through the NH EMT Training Program such as contained within this proposal, the state will be helping remove the financial barrier associated with EMT training thus allowing these employers to expand their reach in terms of the population of potential workers. By adding to this workforce, these emergency and non-emergency ambulatory providers as well as emergency response employers will be able to meet the demand for services within the health care sector by providing reliable and safe transportation thus allowing for efficient patient flow within hospitals, nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities.

The EMT Training Program features three components. First, it proposes to expand the existing WorkInvestNH program administered by NH Employment Security and available to cover 50% of

training related expenses for Granite State employers that contribute to the unemployment compensation trust fund. Employers licensed with the New Hampshire Department of Safety as EMS Units will be able to utilize the WorkInvestNH to cover 50% of the training related costs and then would also be able to get the remaining 50% of training costs associated with staff going through EMT and Advanced EMT training and associated certification covered through this expanded program. Other New Hampshire licensed EMS units not currently eligible for WorkInvestNH, like the public employers and certain non-profit employers, would be able to get 100% of the training costs related to sending workers to EMT and Advanced EMT training and certification covered through this program.

Second, to encourage and facilitate the hiring of individuals prior to completing EMT training and certification, this program will also utilize an "On the Job Training" model utilized by other federal and state funded training programs and reimburse employers for up to 50% of the payroll costs associated with newly hired employees during the first four weeks of employment while the employee is enrolled in EMT training, up to a cap per employee. This will help to alleviate the wage pressures that currently prevent these employers from bringing on prospective employees prior to completion of EMT training. Because this program feature is focused on new hires, it is not intended to be utilized for EMTs seeking Advanced certification or training.

Third, and finally, in addition to the reimbursement payments to employers for training and portions of payroll, this program would provide a one-time incentive of \$1,000 to new EMT employees employed by these emergency transportation employers that successfully complete EMT training and subsequently complete six months of employment with that employer/affiliated licensed EMS unit. This payment will assist in recruiting new employees into the emergency responder workforce. The payment would be made after the employee successfully completed the EMT training and then six months of employment. The incentive would be paid to the employer with the stipulation that it be passed on in its entirety to the employee, subject to any applicable taxes, and the incentive would only be available for new employees seeking EMT training and certification, not Advanced EMT training.

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

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 the cost of EMT-Basic training for new employees 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