

28



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

for

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

74C

November 10, 2022

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

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

REQUESTED ACTION

1. Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) requests authorization to accept and expend funds in the amount of \$ 2,089,121 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA2) financial assistance funds for use in the New Hampshire Emergency Rental Assistance Program (NHERAP), effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. This is an allowable use of ERA2 funds under ARPA, section 3201(d) to provide financial assistance to eligible households as allowed by U.S. Treasury to help keep households stably housed. **100% Federal Funds.**
2. Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) requests authorization to amend a previously approved Fiscal Item (FIS 21-390) approved by the Fiscal Committee on December 17, 2021, and approved by the Governor and Executive Council (Item 50) on January 12, 2022, to repurpose authorized funds in that item in the amount of \$166,330 to provide rental and utility assistance in NHERAP, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. This is an allowable use of ERA2 funds under ARPA, section 3201(d) to provide financial assistance to eligible households as allowed by U.S. Treasury to help keep households stably housed. **100% Federal Funds.**

Funds are to be budgeted in FY2023 in the following account:

01-02-002-0202-24310000 ARP Rental Assistance Fund		<u>FY2023</u>	<u>FY2023</u>	<u>FY2023</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	\$22,500	\$2,500	\$25,000
041 - Audit Fund Set Aside	500801	\$126,950	\$2,087	\$129,037
072 - Grants Federal	500575	\$49,770,834	\$2,084,534	\$51,855,368

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

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council

November 10, 2022

Page 2 of 3

085 - Interagency Xfr Out of Fed Fn	588510	\$180,374	\$0	\$180,374
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$50,100,658	\$2,089,121	\$52,189,779
SOURCE OF FUNDS				
000 - 16 - Federal Funds	400338	\$50,100,658	\$2,089,121	\$52,189,779
TOTAL REVENUE		\$50,100,658	\$2,089,121	\$52,189,779

EXPLANATION

GOFERR is requesting to accept and expend \$2,089,121 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA2) financial assistance funds to support the New Hampshire Emergency Rental Assistance Program (NHERAP). These ERA2 funds are being distributed to the State as part of U.S. Treasury's reallocation process.

GOFERR is also requesting to amend FIS 21-390 to repurpose \$166,330 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA2) previously authorized for evacuee supportive services as part of NHERAP Housing Stability Services, in order to utilize those funds for rental and utility assistance within NHERAP. Evacuee services are ongoing, but these funds are anticipated to go unused.

Both of these requests, if authorized, will require amending subawards with New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, who provides these services within NHERAP.

Since March 15, 2021, NHERAP has been providing financial assistance to eligible households that have lost income or experienced other financial hardship because of or during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the payment of (i) rent; (ii) rental arrears; (iii) utilities and home energy costs; (iv) utilities and home energy cost arrears; and (v) other expenses related to housing incurred due, directly or indirectly, to COVID-19, as defined by United States Department of Treasury.

Just as the State entered into a subaward with New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) to facilitate NHERAP with ERA1 funds (Section 501(a) of Division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021), it has also entered into a subaward with NHHFA to provide ERA2 funds allocated to the State for use in providing relief through NHERAP. That subaward has been amended over time to increase funding available to the program as needed and authorized. NHHFA works with the five regional Community Action Partnerships (CAPs) to accept and process applications and payments for the program.

As noted above, this request would enable GOFERR to amend the subaward with NHHFA again and provide additional ERA2 funds for use in NHERAP on rental and utility assistance. ERA2 provides the same financial assistance provided under ERA1 for a greater number of households and for a longer period of time. In order to properly fund the program and avoid any breaks in relief provided through it, the State has had to balance the two funding sources and meet U.S. Treasury requirements relative to both.

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

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
November 10, 2022
Page 3 of 3

Funds are budgeted as follows:

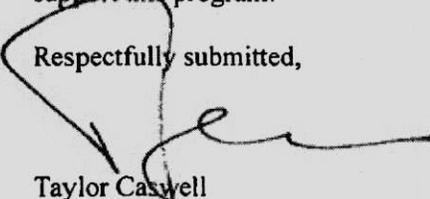
Class 040 – Indirect Costs

Class 041 – Audit Fund Set Aside – Audit Fund Set Aside 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 072 – Grants Federal – Appropriations necessary to support rental assistance program(s)

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



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

FIS 21 390



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:

Table with 5 columns: CLASS, ACCOUNT, FY2022 CURRENT MODIFIED BUDGET, FY2022 BUDGET REQUEST, FY2022 REVISED BUDGET. Rows include EXPENDITURES (040, 041, 072, TOTAL EXPENSES) and SOURCE OF FUNDS (000, TOTAL REVENUE).

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.

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

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council

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.

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

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council

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