



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION
P.O. BOX 1806
CONCORD, NH 03302-1806
603-271-5607 FAX: 888-908-6609
TDD ACCESS: 1-800-735-2964
www.nh.gov/nhdoc

HELEN E. HANKS
COMMISSIONER

JONATHAN K. HANSON
DIRECTOR

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April 27, 2023

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, the New Hampshire Department of Corrections (NHDOC) respectfully requests to amend a previously approved accept and expend FIS 22-038 (approved by Fiscal Committee on 1/21/22) and G&C item #57 (approved on 1/26/22) by accepting reallocated funds from a preexisting authorization through the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief & Recovery (GOFERR) in the amount of \$214,742 of American Rescue Plan Action of 2021 (ARPA), State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF), for the purpose of utilizing the National Guard to provide emergency staffing needs at the NH Department of Corrections, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council approval through June 30, 2024. 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. 100% Federal Funds.

Funding is contingent upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council approval of an amendment to a Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) accept and expend request on the May 19, 2023 Fiscal Committee meeting and the May 17, 2023 Governor and Executive Council meeting.

Funds are to be budgeted in FY 2023 in accounting unit 02-46-46-460510-26360000¹ *ARPA FRF-National Guard Staff* as follows:

Account	Description	FY 2023 Current Authorized	Requested Action	FY 2023 Adjusted Authorized
040-501587	Indirect Costs	49,000	19,504	68,504
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	490	195	685
085-588512	Inter-Agency Transfers out of Federal Funds	154,957	195,043	350,000
	Total Appropriations	204,447	214,742	419,189
000-400338-16	Federal Funds	204,447	214,742	419,189

EXPLANATION

These funds are sought to provide emergent staffing resources to the NH Department of Corrections' NH State Prison for Men. Staffing challenges have substantially increased for the department since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic when the Department saw unprecedented security staff retirements and staff departures. These retirements were primarily driven by the increased challenges and stressors added to staff when their already difficult job responsibilities were exponentially challenged by adjustments for medical isolation and quarantine in a correctional setting (congregate living conditions). During the COVID-19 pandemic, many guidelines were modified to accommodate shorter isolation and quarantine periods, reduced masking and social distancing, and testing out procedures; however, correctional settings remained unchanged at a two-week isolation and quarantine period for nearly two years. The need to continuously manage proper quarantine procedure and medical isolation in prisons, while providing safe and secure housing to ensure the proper delivery of healthcare and programmatic services to those incarcerated, placed many added stressors in an already stressful working environment. In 2021 & 2022, retirements peaked at nearly 300% than in previous years.

The NH Department of Corrections staff, as well as residents, have not been able to avoid the certain indirect health impacts of the pandemic, expressly; the need to provide COVID-19 testing and vaccination programs by nursing staff with security oversight for safety, and increased mental health needs exacerbated by the pandemic, such as substance misuse and mental health treatment, due to the uncertainty of the transition from prison, effects on their families and what are the questionable community opportunities available for housing. These culminating factors have been well documented. In the already dangerous environment of prisons, COVID-19 has become the biggest adverse impact on the wellness of staff resulting in unprecedented retirements of corrections officers who, due to the stressors of COVID-19, left correctional employment. The current vacancy rate for entry-level corrections officers is at 51% department wide. In January 2020, prior to the pandemic, the vacancy rate amongst officers was 26%.

¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH4604A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH4604Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

Without the use of the National Guard to help fill current vacancies, the Department of Corrections will not be able to maintain operations which may force the closure of access to education, treatment and other prison-based resources.

Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Class 040 – Indirect Costs to recover, per by RSA 21-1:75, 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 085 – Inter-Agency Transfers out of Federal Funds for National Guard

This is an allowable use of ARPA FRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(A) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts. In accepting ARPA FRF funds, the Department agrees to work collaboratively with the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery to ensure accurate and timely reporting to U.S. Department of Treasury on the use of the funds.

Respectfully Submitted,



Helen E. Hanks
Commissioner—



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

FIS 22 038

MLC

Helen E. Hanks
Commissioner
Jonathan K. Hanson
Director

PO BOX 1866
 CONCORD, NH 03302-1806
 603-271-5610 FAX: 1-888-908-6609
 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964
 www.nh.gov/nhdoc

January 12, 2022

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chairman
 Fiscal Committee of the General Court
 State House
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a VI, the New Hampshire Department of Corrections (NHDOC) respectfully requests authorization to accept and expend \$539,490 of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021(ARPA), State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF), for the purpose of utilizing the National Guard to provide emergent staffing needs at the NH Department of Corrections. This is an allowable use of ARPA 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 Executive Council approval through June 30, 2023. 100% Federal Funds

Funds are to be budgeted in FY 2022 as follows:
 02-46-46-460510-26XX0000¹ as follows:

Account	Description	FY 2022 Current Authorized	Requested Action	FY 2022 Adjusted Authorized
040-501587	Indirect Costs	-	49,000	49,000
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	-	490	490
085-588512	Inter-Agency Transfers out of Federal Funds	-	490,000	490,000
	Total Appropriations	-	539,490	539,490

000-400338	Federal Funds	-	539,490	539,490
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¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH4604A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH4604Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

EXPLANATION

These funds are sought to provide emergent staffing needs at the NHDOC that have resulted from staff outages associated with COVID-19 infections, staff retirements driven by the operational challenges caused by infection control procedure adjustments for medical isolation and quarantine within prison facilities (congregate living conditions) and the need to continue to properly manage quarantine and medical isolation in prisons while providing safe and secure housing in order to ensure the proper delivery of healthcare and programmatic services to those incarcerated.

The NH Department of Corrections and its staff, as well as residents, have not been able to avoid the certain indirect health impacts of the pandemic expressly; the need to provide COVID-19 testing and vaccination programs by nursing staff with security oversight for safety, and increased behavioral health needs exacerbated by the pandemic, such as substance misuse and mental health treatment, due to the uncertainty of the transition from prison, effects on their families and what are the questionable community opportunities available for housing. These culminating factors have been well documented. In the already dangerous environment of prisons, COVID-19 has become the biggest threat to resident and staff safety. Faced with not only maintaining day-to-day operations but also warding off and treating the highly contagious virus, corrections officers across the country are finding that even those who don't contract COVID-19 are still victims to the stress and trauma of life during a pandemic.

Without the use of the National Guard to fill our current vacancies, the Department of Corrections will not be able to operationally maintain the post requirements necessary to meet the operational impacts of COVID-19 nor provide access to education, treatment and other prison-based resources as we will be forced to shut down posts that provide oversight in rehabilitative areas of the prison.

Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Class 040 – Indirect Costs to recover, per by RSA 21-1:75, 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 085 – Inter-Agency Transfers out of Federal Funds for National Guard

This is an allowable use of ARPA FRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(A) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts. In accepting ARPA FRF funds, the Department agrees to work collaboratively with the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery to ensure accurate and timely reporting to U.S. Department of Treasury on the use of the funds.

Respectfully Submitted,


Helen E. Hanks
Commissioner