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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

for

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

May 30, 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 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 funds in the amount of \$1,867,861 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) for the New Hampshire Judicial Branch for continued support in centralizing and improving the processing of Involuntary Emergency Admissions (IEA) cases by the Circuit Court, effective upon approvals of the Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council 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.

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

Table with 5 columns: CLASS, ACCOUNT, FY2023 CURRENT MODIFIED BUDGET, FY2023 BUDGET REQUEST, FY2023 REVISED BUDGET. Rows include ARP GRANTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, EXPENDITURES, and various cost categories like Indirect Costs, Audit Fund Set Aside, etc.

[1] All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH0220A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH0220Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

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<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$187,963,051</b>	<b>\$1,867,861</b>	<b>\$189,830,912</b>
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>				
000 – 16 – Federal Funds	400338	\$187,963,051	\$1,867,861	\$189,830,912
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$187,963,051</b>	<b>\$1,867,861</b>	<b>\$189,830,912</b>

### EXPLANATION

This proposal would provide continued funding for the next biennium to the Judicial Branch to support its ongoing revamp of how it handles involuntary emergency admissions (IEA) cases. On April 15, 2022, FIS 22-149 was approved by Fiscal Committee, which helped fund the creation of a single, statewide mental health docket, working to replace the current system of processing and hearing IEA cases at multiple locations throughout the State with a centralized process. This also helps the Court significantly improve efficiencies.

The Court's ongoing work to improve this process is in response to a 2021 State Supreme Court holding, which requires the Court to provide for probable cause hearings within three days of when an IEA certificate is completed. These additional funds provide support for the continued implementation and transformation of how the Judicial Branch facilitates IEA cases, as it establishes a new process that is less resource intensive and more sustainable long-term. A portion of the costs are investments in technology, equipment, and program costs and a portion is the salary and benefits of Court staff and judges focused on these cases and the necessary system and procedural changes.

GOFERR has an existing MOU with New Hampshire Judicial Branch (NHJB) for this program. If this request is approved, GOFERR will amend the existing MOU with NHJB to provide this continued funding.

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.

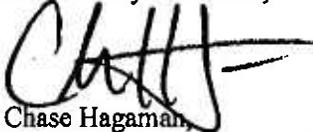
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Class 085 – Interagency Xfer Out of Fed Funds for additional funding for an MOU with the New  
Hampshire Judicial Branch.

Respectfully submitted,



Chase Hagaman,  
Deputy Director, GOFERR