



# State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY  
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January 24, 2024

The Honorable Ken Weyler, 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 Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Services and Communications, to accept and expend \$736,116 of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF), to award a grant to the New Hampshire Public Broadcasting Service (NHPBS) for the costs associated with transitioning to enhanced emergency communication systems for public safety. This is an allowable use of ARP 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 Council approval through September 30, 2024. Funding Source: 100% Federal Funds

Funds are to be budgeted in SFY2024 in the following account:

02-23-23-236510-28XX0000<sup>1</sup> – Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Services and Communications, NHPBS ATSC 3 Technology – ARP

| <u>Class</u>               | <u>Description</u>             | <u>Requested Action SFY 2024</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 000-400338-16              | Federal Funds                  | \$ (736,116)                     |
| 041-500801                 | Audit Fund Set Aside           | 736                              |
| 072-500573                 | Grants to Institutions-Federal | 735,380                          |
| <b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</b> |                                | <b>\$ 736,116</b>                |

<sup>1</sup> All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2314A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2314Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

### EXPLANATION

The purpose of this request is to award a grant to NHPBS. NHPBS has applied for NH ARPA funds to have New Hampshire be in the forefront of states to transition for the NEXT GEN TV (ATSC 3.0), a free, over-the-air (OTA) service which combines broadcast tv with broadcast internet. The PBS stations across the

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Page 2 of 2

country have started the 3.0 conversion to implement ATSC 3.0 to serve community needs. The ATSC 3.0 will add strength and depth to public safety communications across the State through:

- Datacasting of real-time emergency response to first responders regardless of radio and cell access.
- Providing local alerts and warnings in real-time and targeted to specific zip codes.
- Continued hosting of local/state emergency networks with an opt-in feature to participate in the NHPSB ATSC 3.0 datacasting stream.
- Weather and disaster emergency notifications with localized event mapping, evacuation routes and emergency instructions to individuals, businesses, and others in the targeted area.

Through this one-time expense, NHPBS can accomplish this unique opportunity to transition early and provide Granite State residents, businesses, government entities and others with a new transformational technology to provide public safety, hospitals, and other life-saving communications systems.

These are allowable uses of ARPA FRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(A) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts. In accepting ARP 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.

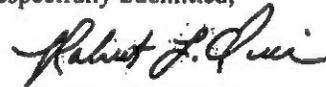
Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Class 041 – Audit Fund Set-Aside: Represents the audit fund set-aside associated amount for this request (0.1%).

Class 072 – Grants to Institution: appropriation for the distribution of funds to grant to sub-recipient.

In the event that Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Robert L. Quinn  
Commissioner of Safety