



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

for

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

66 48

January 22, 2024

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 \$3,600,000 to do a comprehensive statewide assessment of the security of the courts and make appropriate upgrades throughout, effective upon approvals of the Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council through June 30, 2025. This is an allowable use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) 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 as follows:

Table with 5 columns: CLASS, ACCOUNT, FY2024 CURRENT MODIFIED BUDGET, FY2024 BUDGET REQUEST, FY2024 REVISED BUDGET. Rows include EXPENDITURES (040-085) and SOURCE OF FUNDS (000).

All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH0229A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH0229Z. 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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Page 2 of 3

EXPLANATION

In light of recent events in New Hampshire and across the nation, including increased threats against the judiciary, this request will provide a comprehensive risk assessment throughout all court facilities and accomplish important safety and security upgrades throughout the state's court system. The funds will be used to complete a comprehensive assessment of the security risks at every court facility across the state. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has been in contact with the Department of Safety and the National Center for State Courts to gather initial information for the assessment. Based on the costs of similar assessments around the country, the NHJB has estimated the cost at approximately \$40,000 per court facility. The NHJB will use a portion of this award to make initial courthouse security upgrades across the State's courthouses where known vulnerabilities exist. This includes the installation of magnetic security locks on courthouse and courtroom doors with remote locking capabilities, bulletproof glass enclosures for the entryways and windows to protect court security as they perform screening and to prevent further entry into the building by an active shooter, and an enhanced court security screening process, among other things. Any funding remaining after the risk assessments and installation of the initial security upgrades will be used to start implementing the recommendations of the security assessment.

Under this program, GOFERR will transfer ARPA SFRF funds to the state Judicial Branch pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU will address the need for a date by which funds must be obligated sufficiently before December 31, 2024 so that any unobligated funds may be reallocated.

Funds for this award are made available through ARPA SFRF funding that has been reallocated from programs that did not expend their entire award amount. This is an allowable use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) under Section 602(c)(1)(A) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.

Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Class 040 – Indirect Costs to recover, per RSA 21-1:75, a proportional share of the outside funding source to alleviate central service 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.

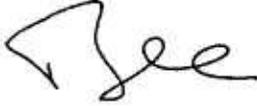
Class 085- Interagency Transfers out of Federal Funds to provide funding to the courts for security assessments and upgrades as described above.

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Page 3 of 3

In the event that Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds may be requested by the NHJB to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Caswell', written in a cursive style.

Taylor Caswell
Executive Director, GOFERR