



New Hampshire State Commission on Aging

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

February 22, 2024

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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 New Hampshire State Commission on Aging (COA) to accept and expend in an amount not to exceed \$399,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) to grant funds for a Community Transportation Needs Assessment & Planning Initiative focused on the Needs of Older Adults, People Living with Disabilities, and Veterans, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through September 30, 2024. This is an allowable use of ARPA 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 in FY2024 in the following account:

01-014-071-710010-NEWXXXX ARP Comm. Transport Needs		FY2024 Current Budget	FY2024 Requested Action	FY2024 Revised Budget
Class	Account			
Expense				
040 – Indirect Costs	500800	\$0	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
041- Audit Fund Set Aside	500801	\$0	\$399	\$399
102 – Contracts for Program Services	502627	\$0	\$393,601	\$393,601
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$0	\$399,000	\$399,000
SOURCE OF FUNDS				
000-Federal Funds	400338-16	\$0	\$399,000	\$399,000
TOTAL REVENUE		\$0	\$399,000	\$399,000

EXPLANATION

Even before New Hampshire began to experience the impacts of the COVID Pandemic, “having transportation options” was repeatedly reported as a top concern by older adults in surveys about aging in their community. Since the onset of the pandemic, our transportation system has been significantly strained with driver shortages, fluctuating ridership, and corresponding revenue challenges. Rides to medical appointments, grocery stores, jobs, and other locations supporting daily living have been impacted. The pandemic also increased social isolation experienced by older adults, veterans, and people living with disabilities. Improved data and an analysis of current policies and investments is needed to develop a long-term intra-agency vision for public and human services transit options in New Hampshire. The resulting strategies will guide future policy and program directions with increased

⁽¹⁾ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH7101A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH7101Z. 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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coordination between state agencies that oversee transportation funding. The data will also be of benefit to local agencies who raise funds for their transportation services from sources other than state government.

The ARPA SFRF funds will be used for two contracts. First, the State Commission on Aging will contract with an entity to conduct a full assessment of the State's transportation needs. The assessment will contain the necessary quantitative and qualitative research on consumer needs and gaps in capacity (with an eye towards improving the capture of data on an ongoing basis), and analysis of challenges and opportunities to maximize federal support and state coordination of resources. Second, the State Commission on Aging will contract with a planning consultant to support the Commission on Aging on this project, engage stakeholders in the process of developing the assessment, and use the assessment to develop strategies that are part of a 10-year vision for public and human services transit in New Hampshire. The planning consultant will initiate the facilitation of multisector plan for aging planning process on behalf of the Commission - of which this transportation work is foundational.

This work will support New Hampshire's continued strong recovery from the COVID pandemic and better situate New Hampshire as a place to age well.

Funds are being budgeted in the classes listed below as follows:

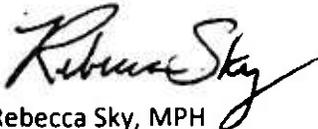
Class 040 – Indirect Costs to recover, per RSA 21-I:75, a proportional share of the outside funding source to alleviate agency indirect costs.

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 102 – Contracts for Program Services.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Sky, MPH
Executive Director
NH State Commission on Aging