



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

for

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

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February 13, 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 \$106,567 to enter into an agreement with CASA of NH to expand their abilities to advocate for the children of NH, 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 (040-103) and SOURCE OF FUNDS.

[1] All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH0230A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH0230Z. 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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000 – Federal Funds	400338-16	\$103,263,723	\$106,567	\$103,370,290
TOTAL REVENUE		\$103,263,723	\$106,567	\$103,370,290

EXPLANATION

CASA of NH is a private, statewide, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1989 whose mission is to protect the rights of New Hampshire's most vulnerable children to live, learn, and grow in the embrace of a loving family. CASA's trained volunteer advocates speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children who come to the attention of New Hampshire's Family Courts through no fault of their own. CASA is the only organization in the state offering this critical service.

Over the past year, reports of abuse and neglect have risen at an alarming rate. In FY22, CASA received referrals for 432 new children in the court system. In FY23, that number soared to 764 new children in the system – a 77% increase over just one year.

Given the increase in cases, CASA has a need to improve its administrative capabilities across the board. This award will aid CASA of NH to accomplish the following:

- Contract with Inception Technology to process the scanning and digitizing of confidential case files that have been saved over the last several years. This budget includes Inception Technology's scanning, shredding, indexing, and encrypting services and the staff administration necessary to prepare, organize, and catalog this work.
- Purchase and install new switches in the central Manchester office to strengthen the network and connect our computers, wireless access points, printers, and servers. This will enable all their connected devices to share information and talk to each other, creating a fully integrated system.
- Purchase and install a new server in the Manchester office to receive, store, and share data across our seven offices. As a non-profit with locally based offices serving communities throughout the state, this equipment is essential to the efficient day-to-day operation of the organization as a whole.
- Purchase six new laptops for employees to replace older models that have been used since 2018.

This one-time project will set CASA of NH up to become a model for CASA programs nationally for its innovative, accessible and efficient storing of case files indefinitely into the future. Once accomplished, it will save vital staff time and operating funds that can be devoted to supporting hundreds of CASA advocates who passionately support over 1,500 children annually. CASA of NH's goal is to meet 100% of the need throughout the state, and this critical capacity-building project comes at a time when the need is skyrocketing.

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.

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Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Class 040 – Indirect Costs to recover, per RSA 21-I: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 072- Grants Federal to provide funding for an award as described above.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Taylor Caswell
Executive Director, GOFERR