



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



104

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
 Fiscal Committee of the General Court
 State House
 Concord, NH

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 Environmental Services (NHDES) to accept additional ARPA funds of \$3,000,000 to cover cost overruns for Drinking Water and Wastewater projects, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor & Council approval through June 30, 2025. This is an allowable use of ARPA SFRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(D) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure. 100% Federal Funds.

NHDES is requesting the changes in funding as follows:

ARPA DES LOANS¹
03-44-44-440010-2476
Fiscal Year 2024

Class	Budget Category	Current Budget	Requested Amount	Revised Budget
Income				
000-400338	Federal Funds	(\$128,054,992)	(\$3,000,000)	(\$131,054,992)
Expenditures				
18-500106	Overtime	\$50,000		\$50,000
20-500200	Current Expenses	23,517		23,517
22-500255	Rents-Leases Other than State	3,640		3,640
24-500225	Maint. Other than B&G	3,000		3,000
27-582703	Transfers to DOIT	206,217		206,217
28-582814	Transfers to General Services	160,061		160,061
30-500321	Equipment	15,747		15,747
37-500174	Technology-Hardware	1,417		1,417

¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602WB4401E and 00FRF602WB4401Q, activity 00FRF602WB4401Z for administrative and indirect costs. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services

Class Con't	Budget Category	Current Budget	Requested Amount	Revised Budget
38-500175	Technology-Software	12,013		12,013
39-500188	Telecommunications	17,230		17,230
40-500800	Indirect Costs	338,983		338,983
41-500801	Audit Set-Aside	129,488	3,000	132,488
42-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	176,292		176,292
50-500109	Personal Services PT	827,720		827,720
59-500117	Temp Personnel	2,127,135		2,127,135
60-500601	Benefits	1,343,417		1,343,417
66-500544	Employee Training	2,598		2,598
70-500705	Instate Travel	9,454		9,454
72-500574	Grants Federal	115,142,166	2,997,000	118,139,166
80-500710	Out-of-State Travel	3,500		3,500
85-588575	Interagency Trf of Funds	1,401,162		1,401,162
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	6,060,235		6,060,235
	TOTAL	\$128,054,992	\$3,000,000	\$131,054,992

EXPLANATION

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 117th United States Congress and signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, to expedite the United States' recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant recession. The Act defines eligible uses of the state and local funding, including responding to public health emergency, responding to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 emergency, providing revenue relief to states and making investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

NHDES has been soliciting applications for the programs supported by ARPA funding since the fall of 2021 and has granted approximately \$145 million in ARPA funding for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure-related projects. Unfortunately, the costs associated with some projects are higher than anticipated at the time the applicants requested funding. Some engineer estimates, even on relatively complete plans, are as much as 50% under final bid costs. Neither NHDES nor the applicants can predict which projects will be so high. Often ARPA funds are used for final design and bid package development during which problems can be identified in the final design work which then drive higher costs. Unfortunately, this is a common challenge on water infrastructure projects. This funding will help towns and water suppliers to bring underfunded project to fruition to benefit their communities.

NHDES is requesting to budget funds as shown below:

- Class 041 To cover Audit-Set-Aside charges related to the federal program.
- Class 072 To cover grants to entities for infrastructure projects.

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Page 3 of 3

We respectfully request approval of this item.



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES