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April 29, 2024

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
And the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, N.H. 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 9:16-a, authorize the Judicial Council to transfer funds in the amount of \$200,000 from Accounting Unit 1093 to Accounting Units 1101 and 1092 for costs associated with Guardian ad Litem and assigned counsel expenditures, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2025. 100% General Funds.

02-07-07-070010-10930000 ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC PROTECTION, JUDICIAL COUNCIL, CONTRACT COUNSEL

CLASS OBJ	CLASS TITLE	CURRENT MODIFIED BUDGET	INCREASE/ (DECREASE) AMOUNT	REVISED MODIFIED BUDGET
	General Funds	\$3,448,360	(\$200,000)	\$3,248,360
	Total Revenue	\$3,448,360	(\$200,000)	\$3,248,360
067-500557	Training of Providers	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	\$3,445,360	(\$200,000)	\$3,245,360
	Total Expenses	\$3,448,360	(\$200,000)	\$3,248,360

02-07-07-070010-10920000 ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC PROTECTION, JUDICIAL COUNCIL, GUARDIAN AD LITEM

CLASS OBJ	CLASS TITLE	CURRENT MODIFIED BUDGET	INCREASE/ (DECREASE) AMOUNT	REVISED MODIFIED BUDGET
	General Funds	\$848,050	\$100,000	\$948,050
	Total Revenue	\$848,050	\$100,000	\$948,050
108-500732	Provider Payments	\$848,050	\$100,000	\$948,050
	Total Expenses	\$848,050	\$100,000	\$948,050

02-07-07-070010-11010000 ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC PROTECTION, JUDICIAL COUNCIL, ABUSE & NEGLECT (NON-CASA)

CLASS OBJ	CLASS TITLE	CURRENT MODIFIED BUDGET	INCREASE/ (DECREASE) AMOUNT	REVISED MODIFIED BUDGET
	General Funds	\$360,000	\$100,000	\$460,000
	Total Revenue	\$360,000	\$100,000	\$460,000
108-500751	Provider Payments	\$360,000	\$100,000	\$460,000
	Total Expenses	\$360,000	\$100,000	\$460,000

EXPLANATION

The Judicial Council requests approval of this transfer to ensure funds are available to cover projected costs related to non-CASA Guardians ad Litem for children in abuse and neglect cases and in other guardianship cases. The hourly rate for Guardians ad Litem and assigned counsel has grown from \$60 to \$90, (per Supreme Court Rule) which has grown costs for these lines.

There are funds available in the Contract Counsel accounting unit (10930000), Class 102, Contracts for Program Services, due to the trend of fewer attorneys taking contracts through the Judicial Council. Funds are being transferred to Class 108, Provider Payments, in accounting units 10920000 and 11010000 to pay Guardian ad Litem costs.

The following is provided in accordance with the Budget Officer's instructional memorandum, dated April 17, 1985, in support of the requested actions:

1. Does the transfer involve continuing programs or one-time projects?
Transfers are for continuing programs.
2. Is this transfer required to maintain existing program level or will it increase program level?
Transfers are to maintain existing program levels.
3. Cite any requirements, which make this program necessary.
RSA 170-C, RSA 463, RSA 169-C:15:III(a), RSA 464-A:6
4. Identify the source of funds on all account listed on this transfer.
100% General Funds.
5. Will there be an effect on revenue if this transfer is approved or disapproved?
No.
6. Are funds expected to lapse is this transfer is not approved?
No.
7. Are personal services involved?
No, there are no personal services involved in this transfer.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jay M. Buckey
Executive Director