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GEORGE N. COPADIS, COMMISSIONER
RICHARD J. LAVERS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

May 31, 2024

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

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, New Hampshire Employment Security (NHES) respectfully requests authorization to amend Fiscal Committee item #FIS 23-166 approved on May 19, 2023 and G&C item #160 approved on May 31, 2023, for the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Training Program funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF), by extending the end date for funding from June 30, 2024 to June 30, 2025, effective upon approval of the Fiscal Committee and the Governor and Executive Council. The original item was approved by the Fiscal Committee on November 18, 2022 as item #FIS 22-426 and G&C item #56A approved November 22, 2022. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds are budgeted in accounting unit, ARPA Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Training Program, 02-027-027-270010-26940000¹.

EXPLANATION

NHES is requesting to extend the funding from June 30, 2024 to June 30, 2025 for the continuation of the Emergency Medical Technician Training Program intended to improve the ability for New Hampshire licensed Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Units providing emergency and non-emergency transportation and emergency response services to be able to better attract, train and retain employees certified as emergency medical technicians. This is an allowable use of ARPA SFRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(A) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.

As of May 17, 2024, NHES has obligated over \$404,000 to 52 licensed EMS Units to help recruit, train and retain 182 individuals as either Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) or to provide further advanced training to Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMTs). These payments cover the costs associated with training, a portion of wages for new recruits while enrolled in EMT, plus a one-time \$1,000 incentive payment to newly licensed EMTs.

¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2703A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2703Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

NHES is a proud member of America's Workforce Network and NH Works. NHES is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Auxiliary Aids and Services are available on request of individuals with disabilities

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NHES has experienced strong recent growth in this program through a partnership with the New Hampshire Department of Safety Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS. By approving this request, NHES would be able to continue to work with all of the public and private EMS Units in the state to help them leverage this opportunity to attract and retain more people into this critical industry to help alleviate bottlenecks experienced throughout the health care industry.

While New Hampshire has added over 20,000 private sector jobs compared to prior to the pandemic, there continue to be difficulties in securing sufficient workers to meet the demand within particular sectors. The health care sector is one such sector that continues to see its demand for workers outpace the supply. The critical services provided by EMTs through emergency response, emergency transport and non-emergency transport help to make the health care sector run smoothly and there continues to be a need to assist this sector in being able to attract and retain additional workforce. The employers utilizing this program are licensed by the NH Department of Safety and include private ambulance companies, public employers with emergency and first responder services and private employers with emergency medical service capabilities. By working with these employers to add to this workforce, these emergency and non-emergency ambulatory providers as well as emergency response employers will be able to meet the demand for services within the health care sector by providing reliable and safe transportation thus allowing for efficient patient flow within hospitals, nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities.

The EMT Training Program features three components. First, it expands the existing WorkInvestNH program administered by NH Employment Security and available to cover 50% of training related expenses for Granite State employers that contribute to the unemployment compensation trust fund. Employers licensed with the New Hampshire Department of Safety as EMS Units will be able to utilize the WorkInvestNH to cover 50% of the training related costs and then would also be able to get the remaining 50% of training costs associated with staff going through EMT and Advanced EMT training and associated certification covered through this expanded program. Other New Hampshire licensed EMS units not currently eligible for WorkInvestNH, like the public employers and certain non-profit employers; would be able to get 100% of the training costs related to sending workers to EMT and Advanced EMT training and certification covered through this program.

Second, this program also utilizes an "On the Job Training" model utilized by other federal and state funded training programs and reimburse employers for up to 50% of the payroll costs associated with newly hired employees during the first four weeks of employment while the employee is enrolled in EMT training. This helps to alleviate the wage pressures that currently prevent these employers from bringing on prospective employees prior to completion of EMT training. Because this program feature is focused on new hires, it is not intended to be utilized for EMTs seeking Advanced certification or training.

Third, and finally, in addition to the reimbursement payments to employers for training and portions of payroll, this program provides a one-time incentive of \$1,000 to new EMT employees employed by these emergency transportation employers that successfully complete EMT training and subsequently complete six months of employment an employer/affiliated licensed EMS unit. This payment assists in recruiting new employees into the emergency responder workforce. The payment is made after the employee successfully completes the EMT training and then six months of employment. The incentive is paid to the employer with the stipulation that it be passed on in its entirety to the employee, subject to any applicable

taxes, and the incentive is only available for new employees seeking EMT training and certification, not Advanced EMT training.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Lavers', written in a cursive style.

Richard Lavers
Deputy Commissioner