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July 25, 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, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a VI, authorize the Department of the Business and Economic Affairs, Office of Planning and Development (OPD) to accept and expend \$160,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) to fund the Office of Planning and Development study related to the fiscal impacts of various housing types in New Hampshire communities, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2025. This is an allowable use of ARPA SFRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(C) for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue. **100% Federal Funds.**

Funds are to be budgeted in FY2025 in the following new account:

**03-22-022-221510-XXXX0000 ARPA OPD Housing Study**

Class	Description	FY 25 Requested Budget
Revenue		
000-400338-16	FEDERAL FUNDS	\$160,000
	Total Revenue	\$160,000
Expense		
040-501587	INDIRECT COSTS	\$2,515
041-500801	AUDIT FUND SET-ASIDE	\$160
102-500731	CONTRACTS FOR PROGRAM SERVICES	\$157,325
	Total Expense	\$160,000

<sup>[1]</sup> All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602GS2206A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602GS2206Z. 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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### EXPLANATION

The shortage of all types of housing throughout New Hampshire is documented in the Statewide Housing Needs and Regional Housing Needs Assessments, published in 2023. Municipal officials are increasingly searching for strategies to address the housing needs of their communities, though with understandable concerns related to costs, including municipal infrastructure, emergency services, and schools.

The ARPA SFRF funds will be utilized to support a study to evaluate the fiscal impacts of housing options, including single family, duplex, and various multifamily housing types in New Hampshire communities. Municipalities across the state will be considered, with analysis of fiscal variables, community characteristics, existing levels of infrastructure, and the capital and maintenance costs to the community of the housing types. An online tool for municipal officials and members of the public will be created to assist in these housing policy and development decisions.

Upon approval of this item, the Department of Business and Economic Affairs will seek approval by the Governor and Executive Council to enter into a contract with Econsult Solutions, Inc (ESI) to conduct the study and deliver the online tool.

The total grant amount planned for the Fiscal Impacts of Various Housing Types study is \$157,325.

Funds are budgeted as follows:

Class 040 – Indirect Costs – all agencies receiving outside funding from any source are required by RSA 21-I:75 to recover 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 which 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 – contract to ESI to conduct the study and deliver the online tool.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Taylor Caswell  
Commissioner