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New Hampshire
Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food

Shawn N. Jasper, Commissioner

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August 22, 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, the Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food (DAMF) requests authorization to accept and expend funds in the amount of \$228,410 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) for Agriculture Industry Support and Investments, 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 provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue. **100% Federal Funds.**

Funds will be budgeted in FY 2025 as follows:

| 02-018-018-180010-NEW0000 ¹ , ARPA Management and Marketing Grant | | FY 2025 | FY 2025 | FY 2025 |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| CLASS/OBJECT | CLASS TITLE | CURRENT MODIFIED BUDGET | BUDGET REQUEST | REVISED BUDGET |
| 000-400338-16 | Federal Funds | \$0 | \$228,410 | \$228,410 |
| Total Funding | | \$0 | \$228,410 | \$228,410 |
| 040 - 500800 | Indirect Cost | \$0 | \$3,185 | \$3,185 |
| 041 - 500801 | Audit Fund Set Aside | \$0 | \$225 | \$225 |
| 072 - 500575 | Grants Federal | \$0 | \$225,000 | \$225,000 |
| Total Expense | | \$0 | \$228,410 | \$228,410 |

EXPLANATION

¹ All direct program costs for Nutrient Management & Crop Marketing Grant Programs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602GS1803A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602GS1803Z. All direct program costs for Organic Certification Cost Share Program will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602GS1804A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602GS1804Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

This request would fund initiatives that, together, will work to support New Hampshire's agriculture industry through a series of grant programs addressing critical needs that benefit producers, consumers, and the environment. The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (DAMF) identified these needs through broad outreach to the state's agricultural service providers, commodity groups, and farm membership groups.

As part of this effort, DAMF is seeking to utilize ARPA SFRF funding for the initiatives described below. These are proposed programs and projects that would be overseen and facilitated by DAMF. Proposed programs as part of this request include:

Nutrient Management and Crop Marketing Grant Programs – DAMF has not had funding for many years for nutrient management grants. These funds support farms to design and construct safe, efficient, and modern manure and other nutrient storage systems. Funding will help farmers reduce environmental impacts and build efficiencies into livestock waste management and water management systems. The department has also not had funding for state-led marketing and promotional grants for many years. These grants support commodity and trade organizations promote New Hampshire-raised and produced products and build awareness of the wide range of crops available to New Hampshire residents. \$200,000.

Organic Certification Cost Share Program – DAMF proposes a one-time match to federal cost sharing for producers currently participating in the National Organic Program. Participants in the NOP have seen cost of certification go up in 2024. Federal cost share opportunities contribute up to \$750 per farm towards organic certification costs. DAMF proposes a one-time match to address challenges associated with increased certification costs. \$25,000.

As indicated above, this funding request would be directed towards specific investments addressing critical needs in New Hampshire's agricultural industry benefiting producers, consumers, and the environment.

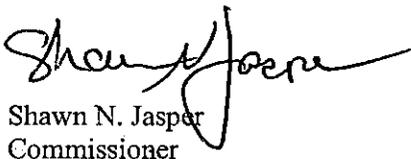
Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Class 040 – Indirect Costs – \$3,185 Funds used to recover central services cost.

Class 041 – Audit Fund Set-Aside - \$225 0.1% of federal funds payable to DAS for audit fees per RSA124:16.

Class 072 – Grants Federal – \$225,000 – for disbursing Federal Funds for agricultural industry support and infrastructure as described in the explanation.

Respectfully submitted,


Shawn N. Jasper
Commissioner