



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

for

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

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August 6, 2025

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) to **retroactively** amend an existing Memorandum of Understanding with the New Hampshire Judicial Branch (NHJB) (Vendor Code #177872), Concord, NH by reducing the price limitation by \$76,737 from \$6,392,715 to \$6,315,978 and extending the completion date from June 30, 2025 to September 30, 2026, to upgrade courthouse security, increase remote resource access, and improve access to civil legal resources for populations adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, effective upon Governor and Council approval. The original MOU was approved by Governor and Executive Council on January 18, 2023, item #51. 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. **100% Federal Funds.**

EXPLANATION

GOFERR requests to **retroactively** amend the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the New Hampshire Judicial Branch (NHJB) in order to reduce the price limitation and extend the completion date of this project. This project is retroactive because GOFERR wanted to ensure that fiscal authorization for this program was extended beyond June 30, 2025 before extending this MOU, and that authorization was confirmed with Governor and Executive Council approval on June 25, 2025. The price limitation is being reduced to reflect a reduction NHJB made in December 2024, when it was determined that the entirety of the funds were not needed and funds were returned and reallocated before the ARPA obligation deadline of December 31, 2024. The extension of the completion date is necessary to allow NHJB to continue using the available balance for the purposes set forth below.

These funds are currently being used by NHJB to make key investments that were needed to adapt to the impacts of COVID-19 and the changes thereon. The projects are designed to remove barriers to justice that have been exacerbated by economic hardship brought on by the pandemic and provide legal information to unrepresented people, helping those without lawyers better understand their rights and the legal processes associated with their cases.

The funding associated with this request is currently and will continue to be used for the following projects:

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Executive Council
August 6, 2025
Page 2 of 2

- Courthouse Security Upgrades - measures due to strains caused by the years of the pandemic. These upgrades may include, but are not limited to, alarms, electronic access, and CCTV equipment that will allow for centralized and/or remote monitoring.
- Supreme Court Historic Records Conversion - conversion of historic records at the Supreme Court. The Law Library provides remote services to members of the public, and that access was expanded throughout the pandemic so more resources could be accessed remotely. This project will further this access by converting historic paper records at the Law Library into electronic format.
- Addressing the Civil Legal Needs of Marginalized Litigants - provision of legal information to unrepresented people. This project will focus on the civil legal needs of New Hampshire citizens that were adversely impacted by job loss, health matters, and other hardships brought on by COVID-19.

Approval of this request will allow NHJB to continue these important projects through September 30, 2026.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Taylor Caswell
Executive Director, GOFERR

State of New Hampshire
Amendment to Inter-Department Memorandum of Understanding

The State of New Hampshire Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) and the New Hampshire Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) hereby mutually agree to amend the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) previously entered into and signed by Governor and Council on January 18, 2023, Item #51, to extend the deadline for AOC to use these funds and reduce the overall funding for this project from \$6,392,715 to \$6,315,978.

Wherefore the MOU is amended as follows:

1. Reduce the funding for the project from \$6,392,715 to \$6,315,978.

2. Remove paragraph 3 of the MOU and replace with the following:

AOC agrees that any part of \$6,315,978 that is not obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by September 30, 2026 will lapse and return to the GOFERR SFRF fund.

Additionally, AOC understands that SFRF funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024. AOC agrees to meet with GOFERR on or before September 30, 2024 to assess the amount of funding used to date, the amount of funding remaining, and the anticipated expenses between September 30, 2024 and the closing date of this MOU of September 30, 2026. GOFERR reserves the right to require that funds anticipated to be unused be returned to GOFERR within 30 days of this meeting to allow for GOFERR to reallocate the funds before the December 31, 2024 deadline.

3. All other provisions of the MOU executed by the parties and signed by Governor and Council on March 13, 2024 shall remain in full force and effect.

Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery



Taylor Caswell, Director

Date: July 11, 2025

NH Judicial Branch



Chris Keating, Interim Director
Administrative Office of the Courts

Date: 7/11/2025

Approved as to form substance and execution NH Department of Justice:

Louise D. Williams

Date: July 24, 2025

Signature

Print Name: Louise Williams

Title: Assistant Attorney General

Approved by New Hampshire Governor and Council

Date: _____



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

for

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

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December 6, 2022

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the New Hampshire Judicial Branch (VC# 177872) in the amount of \$6,392,715 to upgrade courthouse security, increase remote resource access, and improve access to civil legal resources for populations adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, effective upon 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 are available as follows:

01-02-002-020210-Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery,
24690000 - ARP Grants and Disbursements

085 - 588510 Interagency Xfr out of Fed Fnd

FY2023
\$6,392,715

EXPLANATION

This request would enable GOFERR to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the New Hampshire Judicial Branch (NHJB), enabling NHJB to make key investments needed to adapt to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. For example, these funds would allow NHJB to engage in courthouse security upgrades, expand online or remote resources for the public, and increase access to civil legal resources.

The funding associated with this request will be used for the following projects:

- Courthouse Security Upgrades - measures due to strains caused by the ongoing pandemic. These upgrades may include, but are not limited to, alarms, electronic access, and CCTV equipment that will allow for centralized and/or remote monitoring.
- Supreme Court Historic Records Conversion - conversion of historic records at the Supreme Court. The Law Library provides remote services to members of the public, and that access was expanded throughout the pandemic so more resources could be accessed remotely. This project will further this access by converting historic paper records at the Law Library into electronic format.

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council

December 6, 2022
Page 2 of 2

- Addressing the Civil Legal Needs of Marginalized Litigants - provision of legal information to unrepresented people. This project will focus on the civil legal needs of New Hampshire citizens that were adversely impacted by job loss, health matters, and other hardships brought on by COVID-19.

These projects are designed to remove barriers to justice that have been exacerbated by economic hardship brought on by the pandemic and provide legal information to unrepresented people, helping those without lawyers better understand their rights and the legal processes associated with their cases.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Chase Hagan
Deputy Director, GOFERR