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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
for
EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

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 $386,164 from $3,593,904 to $3,207,740 and extending the completion date from June 30, 2025 to September 30, 2026, to perform a comprehensive statewide assessment of the security of the courts and make appropriate upgrades throughout, effective upon approval of Governor and Council. The original MOU was approved by Governor and Executive Council on March 13, 2024, Item #49. 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 being used to complete a comprehensive assessment of the security risks at every court facility across the state. In initially securing this funding, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) had been in contact with the Department of Safety and the National Center for State Courts to gather initial information for the assessment. Based on the costs of similar assessments around the country, the NHJB estimated the cost at approximately $40,000 per court facility.

The NHJB has begun using this award to make initial courthouse security upgrades across the State's courthouses where known vulnerabilities exist and will be able to continue this project once the completion date is extended. Projects include the installation of magnetic security locks on courthouse

and courtroom doors with remote locking capabilities, bulletproof glass enclosures for the entryways and windows to protect court security as they perform screening and to prevent further entry into the building by an active shooter, and an enhanced court security screening process, among other things. Any funding remaining after the risk assessments and installation of the initial security upgrades will be used to start implementing the recommendations of the security assessment.

In the event that Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds may be requested by the NHJB 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 March 13, 2024, Item #49, to extend the deadline for AOC to use these funds and reduce the overall funding for this project from $3,593,904 to $3,207,740.

Wherefore the MOU is amended as follows:

1. Reduce the funding for the project from $3,593,904 to $3,207,740.

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

   AOC agrees that any part of $3,207,740 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: 7/11/25

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:_____

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
for
EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

February 26, 2024

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Hampshire Judicial Branch (VC #311205), in the amount of $3,593,904 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) to do a comprehensive statewide assessment of the security of the courts and make appropriate upgrades throughout, effective upon approval by Governor and Executive Council through June 30, 2025. 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.**

Funds are available as follows:

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

	FY2024
085 – 588510 Interagency Xfers out of Fed Funds	$ 3,593,904

EXPLANATION

Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approved the accept and expend item for this request on February 16, 2023 (FIS 24-041) and February 21, 2024 (Item #66) respectively. In light of recent events in New Hampshire and across the nation, including increased threats against the judiciary, this MOU will provide funding to NHJB to outsource for a comprehensive risk assessment throughout all court facilities and accomplish important safety and security upgrades throughout the state's court system.

The funds will be used to complete a comprehensive assessment of the security risks at every court facility across the state. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has been in contact with the Department of Safety and the National Center for State Courts to gather initial information for the assessment. Based on the costs of similar assessments around the country, the NHJB has estimated the cost at approximately $40,000 per court facility.

The NHJB will use a portion of this award to make initial courthouse security upgrades across the State's courthouses where known vulnerabilities exist. This includes the installation of magnetic security locks on courthouse and courtroom doors with remote locking capabilities, bulletproof glass enclosures for the entryways and windows to protect court security as they perform screening and to prevent further entry into the building by an active shooter, and an enhanced court security screening process, among other

things. Any funding remaining after the risk assessments and installation of the initial security upgrades will be used to start implementing the recommendations of the security assessment.

In the event that Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds may be requested by the NHJB to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Caswell
Executive Director, GOFERR