



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

for

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

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July 8, 2022

The Honorable Karen Umberger, 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 Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) requests authorization to accept and expend funds in the amount of \$34,631,630 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA2) financial assistance funds for use in the New Hampshire Emergency Rental Assistance Program (NHERAP), effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. This is an allowable use of ERA2 funds under ARPA, section 3201(d) to provide financial assistance to eligible households as allowed by U.S. Treasury to help keep households stably housed. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds are to be budgeted in FY2023 in the following account:

Table with 5 columns: CLASS, ACCOUNT, CURRENT MODIFIED BUDGET, BUDGET REQUEST, REVISED BUDGET. Rows include EXPENDITURES (040, 041, 072), TOTAL EXPENSES, SOURCE OF FUNDS (000-16), and TOTAL REVENUE.

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EXPLANATION

GOFERR is requesting to accept and expend \$34,631,630 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA2) financial assistance funds to support the New Hampshire Emergency Rental Assistance Program (NHERAP). This is the third tranche of ERA2 monies the State of New Hampshire has received to provide Emergency Rental Assistance and fund NHERAP.

Since March 15, 2021, NHERAP has been providing financial assistance to eligible households that have lost income or experienced other financial hardship because of COVID-19, including the payment of (i) rent; (ii) rental arrears; (iii) utilities and home energy costs; (iv) utilities and home energy cost arrears; and (v) other expenses related to housing incurred due, directly or indirectly, to COVID-19, as defined by United States Department of Treasury.

Just as the State entered into a subaward with New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) to facilitate NHERAP with ERA1 funds (Section 501(a) of Division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021), it has also entered into a subaward with NHHFA to provide ERA2 funds allocated to the State for use in providing relief through NHERAP. That subaward has been amended over time to increase funding available to the program as needed and authorized. NHHFA works with the five regional Community Action Partnerships (CAPs) to accept and process applications and payments for the program.

This request would enable GOFERR to amend the subaward with NHHFA again and provide the next tranche of ERA2 funds for use in NHERAP. ERA2 provides the same financial assistance provided under ERA1 for a greater number of households and for a longer period of time. In order to properly fund the program and avoid any breaks in relief provided through it, the State has had to balance the two funding sources and meet U.S. Treasury requirements relative to both.

Funds are budgeted as follows:

Class 040 – Indirect Costs

Class 041 – Audit Fund Set-Aside - .001 of federal funds payable to DAS for audit fees

Class 072 – Grants out of Federal Funds as described in the explanation

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

Respectfully submitted,



Chase Hagaman
Deputy Director, GOFERR