

**FIS 21-255 and FIS 21-256
Withdrawn By Agency**



**Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner**

**Kerrin A. Rounds
Chief Financial Officer**

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
*DIVISION OF FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT***

**129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301-3857
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TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964 www.dhhs.nh.gov**

October 19, 2021

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Weyler:

The Department of Health and Human Services requests to withdraw items FIS 21-255 and FIS 21-256 from the October 22, 2021 Fiscal Committee agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori A. Shibinette".

Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



FOR

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

FIS 21 313

October 14, 2021

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chairman
 Fiscal Committee of the General Court
 State House
 Concord, NH

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

REQUESTED ACTIONS

1. Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to accept and expend \$100,000,000 in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to fund investments in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor & Council approval through June 30, 2023. This is an allowable use of ARPA FRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(D) for water and sewer infrastructure as well as Section 602 (c)(1)(C) for provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue. Funding is 100% Federal Funds.

2. Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 124:15,I, authorize NHDES to establish one full time temporary position effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor & Council approval through June 30, 2023. The position was approved by the Division of Personnel on April 29, 2021. A copy of the approval documentation is attached.

Classification Title	Position #	Labor Grade	Salary Range
Environmentalist IV	9T3096	27	\$56,218 - \$80,106

Funding is to be appropriated as follows:

ARPA DES LOANS¹
 03-44-44-440010-2476
 Fiscal Years 2022-2023

Class	Budget Category	Current Budget	Requested Action	Revised Budget
Income				
000-400338	Federal Funds	(\$50,000,000)	(\$100,000,000)	(\$150,000,000)
Expenditures				
18-500106	Overtime	\$40,000	0	\$40,000
20-500200	Current Expense	\$24,937	0	\$24,937
22-500255	Building Rent-Other than State	\$3,700	0	\$3,700
24-500225	Maint Other than Bldg/Grnds	\$3,000	0	\$3,000
27-582703	Transfers to OIT	\$88,740	0	\$88,740
28-582814	Transfers to General Services	\$63,396	0	\$63,396
30-500321	Equipment	\$28,171	0	\$28,171
37-500174	Technology-Hardware	\$19,380	0	\$19,380
38-500175	Technology Software	\$12,360	0	\$12,360
39-500188	Telecommunications	\$17,549	0	\$17,549
40-500800	Indirect Costs	\$149,349	\$6,521	\$155,870
41-500801	Audit Set-Aside	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
42-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	\$75,555	\$8,960	\$84,515
46-500463	Consultants	\$300,000	0	\$300,000
49-588575	Transfer to Other State Agencies	0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
50-500109	Part Time Personnel	\$591,004	0	\$591,004
59-500117	Full Time Temporary	\$814,694	\$101,359	\$916,053
60-500601	Benefits	\$776,426	\$52,706	\$829,132
66-500544	Employee Training	\$6,800	0	\$6,800
70-500705	In-State Travel	\$9,500	0	\$9,500
72-500574	Grants – Federal	\$36,260,000	\$98,230,454	\$134,490,454
80-500710	Out of State Travel	\$3,500	0	\$3,500
85-5885xx	Inter Agcy Xfr Out of Federal Funds	\$161,939	0	\$161,939
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
301-504059	Loans	\$10,000,000	0	\$10,000,000
	Total	\$50,000,000	\$100,000,000	\$150,000,000

¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602WB4401B and 00FRF602WB4401C for PFAS and activity 00FRF602WB4401Z for administrative and indirect costs. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

EXPLANATION

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 117th United States Congress and signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, to speed up the United States' recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing recession.

The Act defines eligible uses of the state and local funding, including responding to public health emergency, responding to workers performing essential work during the COVID -19 emergency, providing revenue relief to states and making investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

Based on planning between the Department, legislative leadership, and the Governor's Office, a portion of the ARPA funds was initially allocated to NHDES to invest in the drinking water and wastewater infrastructure of New Hampshire. The initial \$50 million appropriation was approved by the Fiscal Committee on June 8, 2021, Item #21-138 and by Governor & Council on June 16, 2021, Item #101, allowing NHDES to stand up the program by having the necessary initial staff in place to begin managing the infrastructure program and begin to award grant funding to entities. It was anticipated at the time that as additional ARPA funds were allocated to NHDES additional full time temporary positions would be established to meet the new, increased responsibilities. Given the magnitude of the funds being awarded for major drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects, these responsibilities are significant, and include administering these funds as grants, with extensive financial and compliance monitoring being placed on NHDES to comply with federal transparency requirements.

Based on further planning between the Department, legislative leadership, and the Governor's Office NHDES is continuing to develop a detailed use plan for the additional ARPA funds based on interim guidance from the US Treasury Department.

NHDES is requesting to budget these additional funds as shown below:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Class 040 | To cover the program share of statewide indirect costs. |
| Class 041 | To cover the cost of Audit Set-Aside charges related to the federal program. |
| Class 042 | To cover the program share of additional fringe benefit costs. |
| Class 049 | To cover transfers to other State Agencies. |
| Class 059 | To cover the costs for the one full-time temporary position for coordination and execution of NHDES's management of investments in drinking and clean water infrastructure projects. |
| Class 060 | To cover benefits for full and part-time personnel. |

- Class 072 To cover grants to entities for infrastructure projects and PFAS projects as authorized by HB 271 in the 2021 legislative session. Of the total \$98Million increase, \$25Million is earmarked for PFAS projects.
- Class 102 To cover costs to outside engineering firms to assist with projects.

The following is intended to address the seven questions required by the Fiscal Committee with respect to the acceptance of federal and other funds in which new positions are established or extended:

1. **List All Personnel by Classification, Labor Grade, and Salary:** One fulltime, temporary position as listed below:
 - **Environmentalist IV** (LG 27, \$56,218 - \$80,106) to supervise environmental program activities associated with public water system sustainability to promote maintenance, improvement and resilience of public water system infrastructure as associated with ARPA projects. Responsibilities include ensuring availability of broad funding options, processing funding actions, supervising review of applications, managing drinking water projects, review of reimbursement requests for payments, and assisting with federal reporting requirements such as Davis Bacon, American Iron and Steel and Minority and Women's Business Enterprise in order to ensure the proper and timely reporting of ARPA funding recipients.
2. **Explain the Nature, Need, and Duration of the Program:** The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is providing funds to states through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to assist states with the economic impacts of the pandemic. To this end, this portion of those funds is earmarked for water and sewer infrastructure improvement investments. The program runs through December 31, 2024 for obligating the funds and through December 31, 2026 for expending the funds.
3. **What is the Relationship to Existing Programs?**
The ARPA funds will complement the existing Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs as well as the Drinking Water/Ground Water Trust Fund in providing grants/loans for water and sewer infrastructure improvements.
4. **Has a Substantially Similar Program been Requested of the Legislature and Denied?** No.
5. **Why was this Program and Its Funding Not Included in the Operating Budget?** The federal grant funds were not available at the time the department created its FY22/23 Operating budget request. Management of the overall ARPA funds is being coordinated through GOFERR.
6. **Can any Portion of the Funds Be Utilized if Either, None, or Only Part of the Positions are**

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court and
His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and The Honorable Council

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Authorized? No, the contracts, loans and grant portions of the requested funding could not be effectively awarded without approval of the position. Current staff resources would preclude timely review and processing of work scope authorizations, reports, engineering plans and loan/grant applications. Current staffing is not sufficient to allow timely execution of the work required under the federal requirements.

7. What is the Estimate of the Amount of Funding Required to Continue the Positions in Future Years?

It is anticipated that the position is likely to continue until the ARPA funding expires on December 31, 2026. The estimated cost of this position in FY 24/25 is \$177,740 and FY 26/27 is \$137,304.

We respectfully request your approval of these items.



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner
NH Department of Environmental Services

SUPPLEMENTAL JOB DESCRIPTION

Classification: Environmentalist IV

Function Code: 4098-442

Position Title: Environmentalist IV

Date Established: 4/27/21

Position Number: 9T3096

Date of Last Amendment:

SCOPE OF WORK: Supervises environmental program activities in the Public Water System Sustainability Section to promote maintenance, improvement and resilience of infrastructure at public water systems through utilization of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and other regulatory and incentive-based mechanisms.

ACCOUNTABILITIES:

- Designs and implements diverse program initiatives to ensure that a broad range of funding options is available to public water systems for infrastructure needs. Provides assistance to DWSRF Program as needed including processing loan actions, ranking applications, reviewing environmental data, and authorizing award letters.
- Reviews data compiled from inspections, engineering surveys and special projects; develops, implements and evaluates environmental policy.
- Coordinates specialized studies of the environment, using computer programs to monitor and analyze data to project environmental conditions.
- Manages the review of reimbursement requests submitted by funding assistance recipients in order to provide timely and accurate payments to loanees and grantees.
- Assists with the federal reporting requirements related to the DWSRF such as Davis Bacon, American Iron and Steel and Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) in order to ensure the proper and timely reporting by loan and grant recipients.
- Supervises the review of federal and state grant and loan applications submitted by applicants by checking for completeness and coordinates follow up as necessary.
- Interprets and explains technical, regulatory and administrative requirements to public water systems, municipal officials, consultants, legislators, other governmental organizations, project managers and other internal staff.
- Analyzes statistics, regulations and procedures pertaining to the drinking water funding programs and makes recommendations to improve effectiveness and/or efficiency.
- Participates in, and coordinates activities related to financial and performance audits, recommending appropriate remedial actions.
- Continually seeks to improve practices to add quality and value in support of the Department's mission while identifying and eliminating unnecessary or redundant actions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Education: Bachelor's degree from a recognized college or university with major study in hydrogeology, water resources management, environmental engineering, or a related environmental science. Each additional year of approved formal education may be substituted for one year of required work experience.

Experience: Six years' experience as an Environmental Engineer or Environmentalist in hydrology, water resources management, a related environmental science field, or source water protection, two years of which shall have involved supervisory duties as well as the preparation of various environmental documents, legal briefs, or related research.

License/Certification: Must possess a valid driver's license for performing professional field work.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT: The supplemental job description lists the essential functions of the position and is not intended to include every job duty and responsibility specific to the position. An employee may be required to perform other related duties not listed on the supplemental job description provided that such duties are characteristic of that classification.

SIGNATURES:

I have reviewed the content of this supplemental job description with my supervisor.

Employee's Name Employee's Signature Date Reviewed

Supervisor's Name and Title: J. McKenna, Administrator III

I have discussed the work responsibilities outlined by this supplemental job description with the above employee.

Supervisor's Signature Date Reviewed

Agency Human Resources Date Approved/Revised

Appointing Authority's Signature Date Reviewed/Approved

Reserved for DOP and Designees Only

Janice Day 4/27/21

Division of Personnel Date Approved



Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner

FIS 21 314

Corrected

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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October 20, 2021

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chair
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, NH 03301

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Commissioner, to accept and expend the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), in the amount of \$15,117,252 effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council approval through June 30, 2023 and further authorize the allocation of these funds in the accounts below. These funds will be used for the purchase of Hampstead Hospital, a 111-bed licensed and accredited hospital in Hampstead, New Hampshire to improve the State's ability to provide inpatient psychiatric, behavioral and substance use services. This is an allowable use of ARP FRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(A) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.¹

05-95-95-957510-24380000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVCS, HAMPSTEAD HOSPITAL, HAMPSTEAD PURCHASE

Class/Object	Class Title	Current Authorized Budget	Requested Change	Adjusted Budget
Revenue				
000-400338	Federal Funds	\$ -	\$ 15,117,252	\$ 15,117,252
	Total Revenue:	\$ -	\$ 15,117,252	\$ 15,117,252
Expense				
033-501980	Land Acquisitions and Easement	\$ -	\$ 13,000,000	\$ 13,000,000
033-501981	Land Acquisitions and Easement	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
041-500801	Audit Set Aside	\$ -	\$ 15,102	\$ 15,102
085-588514	Inter-Agency Transfers out of Federal Funds	\$ -	\$ 73,900	\$ 73,900
103-502507	Contracts for Operational Services	\$ -	\$ 28,250	\$ 28,250
	Total Expense:	\$ -	\$ 15,117,252	\$ 15,117,252

¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH9507A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH9507Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chair
Fiscal Committee of the General Court

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

Hampstead Hospital has served an important role as New Hampshire has adapted its behavioral health system to meet population needs across the lifespan. This includes moving pediatric services outside of the New Hampshire Hospital campus to ensure appropriate focus on child-specific treatment needs while allowing more treatment and space options for transitional and supported housing for New Hampshire Hospital's adult patients. Through its contract with DHHS, Hampstead Hospital has been an important partner in addressing the needs of children.

This unique opportunity to purchase Hampstead Hospital comes at a time when children's and families' needs to access mental health services has increased significantly. COVID-19 has exacerbated many children's behavioral health issues. During the pandemic, a number of children who had never been involved in the mental health system experienced high levels of distress, leading their families and providers on a difficult search for pediatric acute and inpatient care.

The size and structure of the facility and surrounding lands would allow the State to expand bed capacity to meet the growing needs of New Hampshire youth. This expansion would include providing local care for children who are currently receiving state-funded services outside of NH. When care is provided to children in-state, it can make it easier to transition them to community-based services upon discharge to continue their care.

Inpatient services for children and youth are part of New Hampshire's commitment to fully implementing the Children's System of Care, which spans the needs across the continuum, from community-based services to psychiatric hospitalization. The new system has a number of components, including: screening and assessments; mobile crisis response; community-based treatment, care and support; intensive home services; and residential treatment. While the new services are designed to address needs in the community whenever possible, the system still needs to have capacity to provide acute services.

In addition to helping immediately address the urgent behavioral health needs of New Hampshire youth and families, the purchase of Hampstead Hospital makes good fiscal sense for the State. Following extensive negotiations, the purchase price for the real estate is significantly lower than the appraised value of the parcel conducted in 2016. Furthermore, it is reasonably expected that the value has increased since the time of the report given the sharp increase in overall real estate values across the State. In addition, the estimated cost of purchasing an existing facility is dramatically lower than the construction of a new facility. Building a new facility is not only the more expensive option, but is one that would take years to complete.

In sum, purchasing this existing facility is the most efficient and effective way to increase behavioral health services capacity while supporting future lives of stability, well-being, and independence for New Hampshire's youngest residents.

Funds will be budgeted as follows:

Class 033-501980, Land Acquisitions and Easement
Purchase of property

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chair
Fiscal Committee of the General Court

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

Page 3

Class 033-501981, Land Acquisitions and Easement

The State will be assuming the accounts receivable and accounts payable at the time of purchase. An appropriation is needed to manage these prior accounts until they are closed out. It is expected that accounts receivable will end up exceeding accounts payable and the ARPA funds will not be required.

Class 085-588514, Inter-Agency Transfers out of Federal Funds

These funds will be paid to the Department of Administrative Services to conduct a property line boundary survey of the following three parcels currently owned by Hampstead Hospital and identified as Map 13 Lot 3 (89.88 acres), Map 13 Lot 128 (2.04 acres), and Map 13 Lot 129 (2.49 acres). The project will be phased into two efforts. The first phase will include a full property line boundary survey plan which will include dimensional zoning, FEMA zone identification, wetlands based off of the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) website, and LiDAR topography from the Statewide LiDAR inventory. The second phase which is not included in this cost estimate is aerial mapping and wetland site assessment and demarcation. Additionally, this class line will fund completing a topography and features description.

Class 103-502507, Contracts for Operational Services

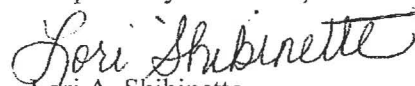
These funds are to pay for the appraisal report provided to the Department that detailed the value of the Hampstead Hospital business and to enable the Department to fully evaluate options for the State to expand critically needed services for patients with psychiatric and chemical dependency needs. The Department used the report to determine a price at which the Hampstead Hospital business would change hands between a hypothetical willing and able buyer and a hypothetical willing and able seller in an open and unrestricted market. In completing the appraisal report, the Contractor also considered other relevant limitations impacting the healthcare setting, as applicable, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and other related healthcare market factors. Additionally, these funds are to pay for the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the Hampstead property.

This item does not include any funding for operating the facility. A separate item will be presented for the operating budget. In order to design an effective and appropriate operating budget for the facility, the Department is actively reviewing financial reports, Medicare Cost Reports, contract needs, and general operating requirements. As the facility was not state-run previously, there are many implications relative to state finance and procurement law that must be considered, and as such the Department is working diligently to resolve these questions and be able to bring forth an operating budget for the facility.

Area served: Statewide

Source of funds: These funds are 100% Federal

Respectfully submitted,


Lori A. Shubinette
Commissioner



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

FIS 21 315

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Corrected

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT

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Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner

Kerrin A. Rounds
Chief Financial Officer

October 20, 2021

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chair
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, NH 03301

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Hospital, to accept and expend federal funds in the amount of \$4,686,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support COVID-19 vaccine delivery within Federally Qualified Health Centers and voluntary school-based and/or community clinics conducted by Regional Public Health Networks. This is an allowable use of ARP SFRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(A) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, effective upon approval by the Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council through June 30, 2023 and further authorize the allocation of these funds in the accounts below. **100% Federal Funds.**

05-095-094-940010-24650000¹ HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, HHS: NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL, NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL, ARPA DHHS FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

Class/Obj	Class Title	Current Modified Budget	Increase (Decrease) Amount	Revised Modified Budget
000-400338	Federal Funds	\$28,349,413	\$4,686,000	\$33,035,413
	General Funds			
	Total Revenue	\$28,349,413	\$4,686,000	\$33,035,413
020-500200	Current Expense	\$1	\$0	\$1
030-500301	Equipment	\$1	\$0	\$1
040-500800	Indirect Costs	\$2,121,473	\$0	\$2,121,473
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$26,206	\$4,686	\$30,892

¹ All direct program costs for RPHN School and community-based clinics will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH9508A, all direct program costs for vaccine administration will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH9508B, and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH9508Z. 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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042-500620	Post-Retirement Benefits	\$8,733	\$0	\$8,733
046-500464	Consultants	\$1	\$0	\$1
047-500240	Own Forces Maintenance (Bldg-Grnds)	\$1	\$0	\$1
048-500226	Contract Repairs; Bldg, Grounds	\$1	\$0	\$1
059-500117	Temp Full Time	\$98,792	\$0	\$98,792
060-500601	Benefits	\$126,251	\$0	\$126,251
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	\$14,696,729	\$4,681,314	\$19,378,043
103-502664	Contracts for Ops Services	\$11,271,224	\$0	\$11,271,224
	Total Expenses	\$28,349,413	\$4,686,000	\$33,035,413

EXPLANATION

The Department is requesting to accept and expend American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine delivery within Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and voluntary school and/or community based clinics. There is ongoing need to make vaccination opportunities available to people in New Hampshire who make the choice to get vaccinated. Although the COVID-19 vaccine is still effective against severe disease and death, booster shots are now available for certain individuals who are medically vulnerable or who have other risk factors.

Cases of COVID-19 are increasing among children and many parents are interested in vaccinating their children to help prevent illness and transmission of disease. These funds will support Regional Public Health Networks (RHPNs) to set up efficient vaccine clinics throughout the state to improve access for individuals and caregivers who wish to have their children vaccinated. School-based and community clinics relieve the burden on an already stressed health care system.

FQHCs integrate access to primary care, pharmacy, mental health, substance use disorder, and oral health services in areas where economic, geographic, or cultural barriers limit access to affordable health care. They are well-prepared to answer questions and deliver vaccine to low income individuals and their children. Both FQHCs and RHPNs can provide familiar and convenient locations for working families to get vaccinated.

Funds will be used for vaccine delivery and logistics and will not be used to support the development or enhancement of the Immunization Information System (IIS).

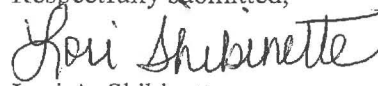
The funds are to be budgeted as follows:

- Class 041 The funds will be used to pay for audit fund set aside per State requirement.
- Class 102 The funds will be used for contracts with Regional Public Health Networks and Federally Qualified Health Centers to increase availability and access to COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots, and vaccine for children ages 5-11.

In summary, additional funding is requested to improve access to COVID-19 vaccine, especially for children and individuals with medical and other risk factors. The Source of Funds is 100% Federal Funds. This is an allowable use of ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds under Section 602(c)(1)(a), to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Lori A. Shibinette
 Commissioner



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

October 21, 2021

Fiscal Committee of the General Court
The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chair
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Representative Umberger and Members of the Committee:

Last week, the Executive Council voted to reject \$27 Million in federal public health funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) out of concerns that limited boilerplate language somehow waived the State's ability to continue to fight COVID-19 in a way that is best for Granite Staters as determined by the State. To the contrary, the rejection of these funds will actually limit the State's ability to continue to control how vaccines are provided in our State.

For example, by limiting the State's ability to invest in its vaccine data system means the State will not have the capacity to collect aggregated data on the State's vaccination rate, or who has received a booster vaccine. That means that the State will be limited to relying on federal CDC data instead of its own.

Further, absent robust New Hampshire data, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will be limited in its understanding of vaccine breakthrough cases. Healthcare providers will have incomplete information to make medical decisions with their patients. The public will not have easy access to their medical records. Policy makers and DHHS will have to further depend on federal CDC data and will be unable to verify information with our own New Hampshire data.

Not only will the State have to look to federal data sources in order to continue its evidence-based approach to pandemic response, this action is cutting off resources for providing vaccines across the State. New Hampshire planned to use funds to support vaccine clinics and to support the operational logistics of supplying vaccine – basic items such as dry ice, shipping containers, postage, and the ability for staff to do required monitoring of clinics.

As of November 2021, it is anticipated that the approximately 125,000 New Hampshire children age 5-11 will become eligible for COVID-19 Vaccine. In addition, as more vaccines are approved for booster doses, providers could be faced with hundreds of thousands of New Hampshire residents seeking vaccines, with little or no support.

In an effort to address some of these challenges, DHHS has submitted a late item to the Fiscal Committee to approve \$4.7 million in ARP State Recovery funds to support COVID-19 vaccine delivery within Federally Qualified Health Centers and voluntary school based clinics. This funding is critical to ensure boosters are available to the State's vulnerable and at risk populations. Cases of COVID-19 are

increasing among children and many parents are interested in vaccinating their children to help prevent illness and transmission of disease.

These funds will support Regional Public Health Networks (RHPNs) to set up efficient vaccine clinics throughout the state to improve access for individuals and caregivers who wish to have their children vaccinated. FQHCs and RHPNs provide familiar and convenient locations for working families to get themselves and their children vaccinated. School-based and community clinics relieve the burden on an already stressed health care system.

This unfortunately means the State is left only with the option to use more flexible funding, while sending back New Hampshire's allocation from the CDC.

As we face the task of providing primary doses for children and booster shots over the next twelve months, DHHS will have addition critical needs beyond this request for \$4.7 million, to support the healthcare community. Vaccine must be shipped, hospitals and healthcare practices unaffiliated with hospital systems need support for vaccine delivery, DHHS staff need to visit each vaccine provider for federally required inspections, and DPHS has continued needs for temporary staff and overtime. Those costs exceed \$7.165 million over the next 12 months:

Infectious Disease Prevention Services at Manchester and Nashua Health Departments	\$120,000
Hospital Funding for Vaccine Delivery	\$2,600,000
Unaffiliated Health Care Providers	\$3,700,000
Shipping supplies	\$250,000
Postage	\$25,000
In state travel for required site visits	\$5,500
Temp Surge Staffing	\$325,000
Overtime	\$140,000
Total	\$7,165,500

Without these funds, state run vaccine operations will come to a halt, leaving Granite Staters to rely on federal vaccination efforts. As a first step, we urge you to approve the requested authorization by the Department of Health and Humans Services tomorrow. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu
Governor



Lori Shibiinette
Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services