



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

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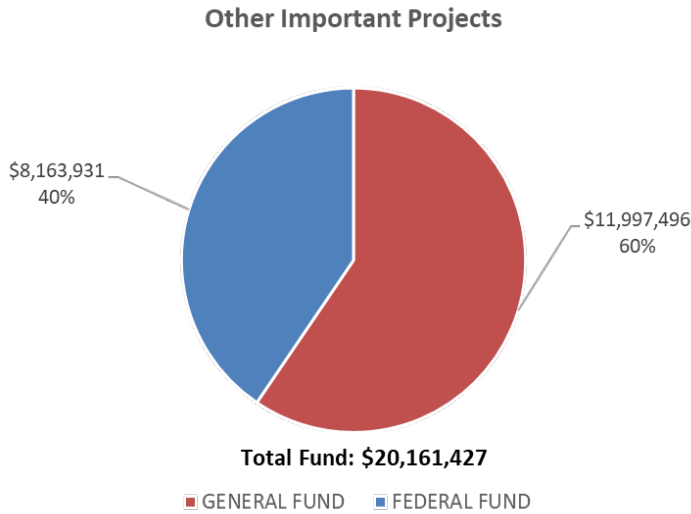
March 8, 2021

The Honorable John Graham, Chair
 Public Works and Highways Committee
 NH House of Representatives
 107 North Main Street
 Concord, NH 03301

Dear Representative Graham:

Please find the Department’s responses to questions generated during the March 5, 2021 Department of Health and Human Services, Capital Budget presentation.

- 1. Please provide a pie chart of FF and GF expenses for other important capital projects in the power point presentation:**



- 2. Please prioritize the other important project requests:**

The order of the projects on slide 23 is in priority order.

- 3. How will federal funding play into the SPU/Forensic Hospital if there isn’t enough GF appropriated? For the SPU/Forensic Hospital can you also outline what the total project cost will be, what has been appropriated in the FY 2020-2021 biennium and the new amount needed to complete the project.**

As delineated in HB2 there are two scenarios for how this project would be funded. In the first instance, the department is instructed to identify potential sources of federal funds (such as federal stimulus dollars). If these dollars do not materialize, the intent is to provide bonding authority to fund the remaining capital expense.

In SFY, 20-21 there is \$8,750,000 appropriated. Until a final design is complete DHHS will not know the total cost. Currently the Department only has a projected cost that is from over two years ago. The Department of Health and Human Services is collaborating with the Department of Administrative Services to obtain cost and design estimates.

4. In regards to the BEAS Systems Modernization project - How many people would need to be hired to support the caseload if this project is not funded?

We are estimating that we would need 4 ½ positions based on a Lean review to manage the increased number of calls and reports required along with the manual authorizations and claims processing requirements. The estimated costs for these employees including benefits on an annual basis is \$340,000. The system would eliminate the need for these additional positions through automation of the administrative effort. It would also provide streamlined processing allowing case managers to focus on their caseloads instead of manual administrative efforts, thus improving point of care services and reducing delayed claims processing and service authorizations.

5. In regards to PFAS Environmental Water Testing Equipment

- **There was \$50M approved in past legislation for PFAS can we use that fund to address the items listed in the capital request:**

The \$50M was approved for loans for cleanup of contaminated sites to water systems allocated to the Department of Environmental Services (<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/L/485-H/485-H-mrg.htm> and https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-pfas-investigation/?page_id=1287). These funds were not approved for Public Health Lab testing of water samples. This request is to purchase Liquid Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS) system for PFAS water testing and minor renovation, electrical and HVAC work to Public Health Lab space. Purchase of this instrument will allow the NH PHL to begin testing environmental samples, specifically water, for PFAS.

- **How is PFAS water testing being accomplished today without this equipment?**

Any PFAS water testing required by the State is currently outsourced to commercial labs for processing.

Sincerely,



Lori A. Weaver
Deputy Commissioner