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Commissioner

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

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May 26, 2021

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman  
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 \$7,993,260 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fund improvements in New Hampshire's mental health system, as outlined in Executive Order 2021-09, 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.

**05-095-940010-24650000 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	\$0	\$7,993,260	\$7,993,260
	General Funds			
	<b>Total Revenue</b>			
040-500800	Indirect Costs	\$0	\$726,000	\$726,000
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$0	\$7,260	\$7,260
103-502507	Contracts for Operational Services	\$0	\$7,260,000	\$7,260,000
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$7,993,260</b>	<b>\$7,993,260</b>

**EXPLANATION**

The Department is requesting to accept and expend American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to improve the following services within the Mental Health System of New Hampshire. These services and improvements are an eligible use of ARPA FRF funds because they will provide additional resources for safe, behavioral health

treatment, a use specifically identified in the non-exclusive list of uses that address effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency in the Treasury Interim Rule and are related to COVID-19 as set forth in the attached Executive order 2021-09.

**1. New Hampshire Hospital Seclusion Room Safety Upgrades**

The Department requests to utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to improve various aspects of New Hampshire Hospital’s environment to improve safety for patients and staff. If approved, funding would be used to replace seclusion room walls and floors with behavioral health grade seclusion room safety padding, install essential surveillance systems (CCTV), replace existing hardware/fixtures with emergency locking hardware/fixtures to meet RSA 129:U., remove and replace fomite surfaces, such as carpet, to improve infection control standards, and other various improvements relative to Hospital environmental safety.

Activity Code	Description
00FRF602PH9502A	Seclusion Room Safety Upgrades

**2. NH Hospital Renovations to Comply with Health and Safety Standards- C&D Units**

- a. The Department requests to utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for design and renovation of C&D units at New Hampshire Hospital meeting Behavioral Health Facilities Guidelines for Design & Construction for Psychiatric Hospitals (latest edition) for environmental upgrades to patient rooms, bathrooms, shower/tub rooms, unit cafeteria/kitchens and common areas that will include construction of low maintenance “hardened” environmental wall coverings/finishes; behavioral health grade lighting replacements and lighting controls integrated into building automation system; floor to ceiling renovations to tub, shower, and bathrooms including behavioral health plumbing fixtures, lighting, wall coverings, showers, and tubs; behavioral health grade seclusion room safety padding; security ceiling grid; and other behavioral health grade accessories. Contingencies for logistical sequencing to minimize disruption to patient care must be considered and integrated into project cost.

Activity Code	Description
00FRF602PH9503A	NHH Renovations Health and Safety

**3. Lamott Roof at Glencliff**

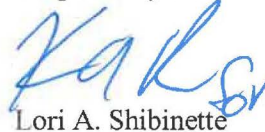
- a. The Department requests to utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds provide funding to replace the Lamott wing Roof. The Lamott wing houses 50 of the residents. Although, the wing is only 20 years old, the building has deteriorated rapidly because of funding constraints and shoddy construction. For example, the basement walls leaked so badly that large puddles formed in the stairwells until the walls were properly sealed. All the windows were recently replaced because the sashes would either, fall out on their own or the wind would blow them out. The roof has deteriorated to the state where the shingles are bubbling and many are blowing off. Staff have discovered pin-holes of light through the sheathing, causing leaks. There are concerns that the water may be running down to the walls and begin to affect the integrity of the entire building. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to replace this roof as soon as possible.

Activity Code	Description
00FRF602PH9504A	Lamott Roof at Glencliff

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman  
His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
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The Source of Funds is 100% Federal Funds. 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



CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU  
Governor

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

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR**

**Executive Order 2021-09**

**An order directing additional actions to address the mental health crisis in the  
State of New Hampshire**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a mental health crisis across the country, leading to substantial documented increases in depression or anxiety in adults, and increases in the number of adults and children going to emergency departments for mental health services; and

WHEREAS, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, treatment options were limited, including a limitation on the number of emergency psychiatric beds and community-based services, which further exacerbated the growing mental health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the negative repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic have led to an increase in the number of individuals seeking treatment and with fewer community-based options available, there has been an increase in the number of individuals in need of an emergency psychiatric bed; and

WHEREAS, early on during the COVID-19 pandemic there was no waitlist for patients in need of a bed at any state facility for those citizens necessitating mental health treatment; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire is committed to ensure all New Hampshire citizens have appropriate and adequate access to comprehensive community-based mental health prevention and treatment services; and

WHEREAS, given the present circumstances there is an urgent need for all partners in the mental health community to accelerate their work and demonstrate flexibility in providing these much-needed services.

NOW THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me pursuant to part II, article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order, effective immediately, that:

1. The State of New Hampshire take immediate, targeted, and direct action to ensure there is a system in place to help individuals in mental health crisis have timely and appropriate medical care.
2. The Department of Health and Human Services is hereby authorized and directed to create emergency administrative rules to immediately increase access to services in order to address the mental health crisis in the State of New Hampshire, including requirements for policies and standards by which a hospital must treat patients with mental health concerns.
3. The Department of Health and Human Services is hereby authorized and directed to implement through their licensing rules, emergency administrative rules to clarify the roles New Hampshire hospitals have in caring for those patients who present at a hospital with mental health concerns, including a requirement for hospitals to be in compliance with RSA 135-C.
4. The Department of Health and Human Services is hereby authorized and directed to review all mental health services in the State of New Hampshire to determine if current providers are equipped to meet the needs of New Hampshire citizens and where necessary, identify new and/or alternative providers.
5. The Department of Health and Human Services is hereby authorized and directed to expand the number of Designated Receiving Facility ("DRF") beds on an expedited basis.
6. The Department of Health and Human Services is hereby authorized and directed to work with all providers and stakeholders to identify additional immediate actions to address this mental health crisis.
7. The Department of Health and Human Services is hereby authorized and directed to take lawful steps to ensure increased access and availability of community-based mental health services.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty-one, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-five.



**GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**