



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

FIS 21 173



Late Item

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

for

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

June 14, 2021

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

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) to accept and expend funds in the amount of \$3,005,500 from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF), to fund COVID-19 homeowner and homeownership hardships, upon approval of the Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council approval, retroactively effective June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds are to be budgeted in FY2022 in the following new account:

01-02-002-020210 - Office of the Director
24xx - ARP - Homeowners Assistance Fund

Table with 3 columns: Class, Description, FY22 Budget. Rows include Indirect Costs (\$2,500), Audit Fund Set Aside (\$3,000), Grants Federal (\$3,000,000), TOTAL EXPENSES (\$3,005,500), Federal Funds (\$3,005,500), and TOTAL REVENUE (\$3,005,500).

EXPLANATION

The GOFERR will use these ARP - HAF funds to enter a grant with the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) for \$3,000,000 for administration and planning cost pursuant to Section 3206 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 (March 11, 2021) (hereinafter ARPA) Homeowner Assistance Fund.

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Per the US Treasury funding for this program, immediate work is required on the development and submission of a plan for Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF) funding in order to receive payment beyond the initial 10% payment (\$5,000,000, which NH Treasury has received). The HAF plan, due June 30, 2021 absent an extension, must describe in detail the needs of homeowners within NH, the design of each program that NH proposes to implement using HAF funds, performance goals, and information regarding NH's readiness to implement the programs. This aggressive timeline required NHHFA to engage in work prior to Governor and Council review and approval. Once the US Treasury approves New Hampshire's plan and releases additional funding, GOFERR will seek approval of an amendment to the subaward grant agreement.

The New Hampshire Homeowner Assistance Program will mitigate financial hardships suffered by New Hampshire residents associated with the coronavirus pandemic by providing funds to eligible entities for the purpose of preventing homeowner mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, loss of utilities or home energy services, and displacements of homeowners experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020, through qualified expenses related to mortgages and housing. The grant funds must be used for allowable expenses incurred by NHHFA through September 30, 2025, unless an extension is allowed and granted by GOFERR in writing.

The New Hampshire Homeowner Assistance Program (NHHAP) will be administered by New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, in collaboration with GOFERR. NHHFA will be responsible for the planning, design and implementation of the homeowner assistance program to mitigate financial hardships suffered by New Hampshire residents associated with the coronavirus pandemic by providing funds to eligible entities for the purpose of preventing homeowner mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, loss of utilities or home energy services, and displacements of homeowners experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020, through qualified expenses related to mortgages and housing, that have not been, and are not anticipated to be, reimbursed from other federal, state or local assistance or COVID-19 relief from any other source.

NHHFA may contract with sub-grantees to provide consulting services for program design and other technical assistance, and to accept and process applications and payments for the program. The sub-grantees selected by NHHFA shall use the funding only to address New Hampshire Homeowner Assistance Program allowable costs incurred between June 1, 2021 and September 30, 2025, as allowed under the grant agreement.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Taylor Caswell  
Executive Director, GOFERR