



New Hampshire Department of
**BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**



July 29, 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 Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a VI, authorize the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) to accept and expend \$1,001,000 in American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) to fund the Regional Housing Needs Assessment Program, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. 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. **100% Federal Funds**

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

03-022-022- 221510 – OSI Division of Planning
24XX0000 – ARP Regional Housing Needs Assessment as follows:

03-022-022-221510-24XX0000 ¹ ARP REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT		FY2022	FY2023
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET REQUEST	BUDGET REQUEST
040 - 501487	Indirect Costs	\$13,750	\$11,250
041 - 500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$539	\$461
072 - 500574	Grants Federal	\$450,000	\$450,000
102 - 500731	Contracts for Program Svcs	\$75,000	
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$539,289	\$461,711
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
000-400338	Federal Funds	\$539,289	\$461,711
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$539,289	\$461,711

¹All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2203A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2203Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services Division of Accounting Services.

Funds are budgeted as follows:

- Class 040 - Indirect Costs – Indirect Costs paid to SWCAP and internal cost recoveries**
- Class 041 - Audit Fund Set-Aside - .001 of federal funds payable to DAS for audit fees**
- Class 072 - Grants Federal – Grants funds in support of local governments**
- Class 102 – Contracts for Program Services - Contractor to perform population projections**

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EXPLANATION

The Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) is requesting to accept and expend of American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF), through the Office of Planning and Development (Planning), to support the Regional Housing Needs Assessment Program.

This program will provide grants to Regional Planning Commissions (RPC) to complete assessments of the regional needs for housing for persons and families at all levels of income. Each RPC receiving a grant shall also complete a Fair Housing Equity Assessment to identify and describe factors that might be barring people from accessing adequate housing in the region.

This program will provide specific housing needs information for each region served by the nine RPCs. Understanding the housing needs for each region will be critical in advancing the statewide vision and planning needed to solve New Hampshire's housing shortage including affordable housing, so that adequate housing options to serve the needs and choices of NH citizens throughout their lifespans are available throughout the state. This program will also support implementation of the State's Council on Housing Stability's Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

Planning will also contract for the updating of population projections based on 2020 Census data and develop agreed upon Regional Housing Needs Assessment methodology in partnership with RPCs.

Each RPC will receive a grant in the amount of \$100,000 and Planning will utilize \$75,000 to administrate the program and engage in the population projections and methodology development.

For the last several years, adequate affordable housing has been a challenge for New Hampshire. That challenge has been exacerbated by the pandemic. Completing Regional Housing Assessments at this time will provide critical regional information needed to determine where and what types of housing development activities are needed in each region of the state. This program will provide that information so that municipalities can meet regional housing needs in a coordinated and unified manner.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Taylor Caswell, Commissioner
Department of Business and Economic Affairs