



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

for

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

FIS 21 204

July 30, 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 Governor's Office of Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) to accept and expend \$207,708 in American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to fund the Choose Love Bus Tour Program, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2022. 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 FY2022¹ as follows:

01-02-002-0202-Governor's Office of Emergency Relief and Recovery, 24690000-ARP Grants and Disbursements				
Class	Account	FY22 Current Modified Budget	Requested Amount	FY22 Revised Budget
Expenditures				
040-INDIRECT COSTS	501587	\$25,000	\$2,500	\$27,500
041-AUDIT FUND SET ASIDE	500801	\$60,500	\$208	\$60,708
042-ADDITIONAL FRINGE BENEFITS	500620	\$60,500	\$0	\$60,500
072-GRANTS FEDERAL	500577	\$2,550,000	\$205,000	\$2,755,000
103-CONTRACTS FOR OP SERVICES	502507	\$3,500,000	\$0	\$3,500,000
Total Expenditures		\$6,196,000	\$207,708	\$6,403,708
Revenue				
000-FEDERAL FUNDS	400338	\$6,196,000	\$207,708	\$6,403,708
Total Revenue		\$6,196,000	\$207,708	\$6,403,708

¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH0205A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH0205Z. 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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EXPLANATION

GOFERR is requesting to accept and expend of American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) to support a "Choose Love" Bus Tour this fall that will visit nine² locations around the state to promote student and community mental health recovery from the effects of the public health emergency. These funds be expended through a sole source sub-award grant to the "Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement" a national 501c(3) organization offering SEL programs aimed at schools, students and communities, which will be organized locally by Shannon Desilets. This is a sole source grant because the "Choose Love Movement" is a trademark of this entity. Additionally, the need to organize this program quickly to offer this assistance this fall with the impact of returning to schools and workplaces precludes an RFP process.

The Choose Love Bus Tour would support the mental health needs of communities, families and children after this more than a year of high stress, anxiety and isolation. Choose Love is social and emotional learning, not just for schools, but for homes, communities and work places as well. This tour would not just be for schools, but for all. One of the areas of focus is Post-Traumatic Growth, to assist in healing and growing through trauma, especially on the heels of COVID.

This is an opportunity to unite community members, from the librarians to our first responders, while working together with community mental health providers so they have increased outreach to further support the community as well. Additionally, increased family engagement is vital for the wellbeing and success of our children with our schools. This is an opportunity to foster this engagement, along with helping to support our educators, families and community members through the fatigue that has come through the pandemic.

SEL is essential for mitigating the trauma of the last 16 months, preparing our students to learn, helping to support our families, and supporting the overall mental health needs of ALL of our community members. This bus tour would bring forth Choose Love activities and strategies, trauma-informed lessons, engaging partners, and have the founder live and in-person to present to communities. Activities would be planned for the kids that are fun and purposeful, along with lessons for us adults as well in order to nurture the well-being of all ages.

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 the Choose Love Bus Tour Program

² Currently proposed locations are North Country, Nashua, Exeter/Seacoast, Manchester, Lakes Region, Keene/Winchester, Hanover/Claremont, Concord and Plymouth

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Taylor Caswell', is written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

Taylor Caswell
Executive Director, GOFERR