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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

*DIVISION OF FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT*

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November 4, 2021

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chairman  
Fiscal Committee of the General Court and

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 \$2,752,750 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF), to support behavioral health wellness, prevention and early intervention efforts. 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, 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.**

**05-095-094-940010-24650000<sup>1</sup> 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	\$33,035,413	\$2,752,750	\$35,788,163
	General Funds			
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$33,035,413</b>	<b>\$2,752,750</b>	<b>\$35,788,163</b>
020-500200	Current Expense	\$1	\$0	\$1
030-500301	Equipment	\$1	\$0	\$1
040-500800	Indirect Costs	\$2,121,473	\$0	\$2,121,473

<sup>1</sup> All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH9510A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH9510Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$30,892	\$2,750	\$33,642
042-500620	Post-Retirement Benefits	\$8,733	\$0	\$8,733
046-500464	Consultants	\$1	\$0	\$1
047-500240	Own Forces Maintenance (Bldg-Grnds)	\$1	\$0	\$1
048-500226	Contract Repairs; Bldg, Grounds	\$1	\$0	\$1
059-500117	Temp Full Time	\$98,792	\$0	\$98,792
060-500601	Benefits	\$126,251	\$0	\$126,251
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	\$19,378,043	\$2,750,000	\$22,128,043
103-502664	Contracts for Ops Services	\$11,271,224	\$0	\$11,271,224
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$33,035,413</b>	<b>\$2,752,750</b>	<b>\$35,788,163</b>

### **EXPLANATION**

The Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) has awarded American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 funding in support of behavioral health wellness, prevention and early intervention efforts. This multi-faceted program will boost behavioral health efforts by expanding implementation of policies, practices and programs that have been recommended through legislation, assessments and strategic planning reports including, but not limited to, Children's Behavioral Health System of Care, 10-Year Mental Health Plan, and Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategic Plan. While some of the components expand programs delivered to school-age population, the overall intention is to improve behavioral health and wellness throughout the lifespan through prevention and early intervention.

The purpose of this funding allocation is as follows:

**Multi-Tiered System of Support for Behavioral (MTSS-B) and Student Assistance Programs (SAP):**

Adolescence is a period of transition and a critical time for mental health. The COVID-19 pandemic and its aftereffects have compounded risk factors faced by this population. Prior to the pandemic, the rates of depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation and suicide for NH youth were already concerning and were steadily increasing. In the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBS), 43% of adolescents who took the survey reported feeling sad or hopeless every day for a period of two weeks or more in the past 12 months, 23.5% reported seriously considering suicide in the past 12 months and 14% reported having a plan to take their own life. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, suicide was the second leading cause of death for adolescents (CDC). The state of NH has seen an unprecedented need for mental health help among children and adolescents since the start of the pandemic, in particular adolescent females have been accessing services at increasing rates. In 2018 and 2019, prior to the pandemic, approximately 310 female youth under age 18 were known to have boarded in emergency departments and/or were on waiting lists for inpatient services during the year. During 2020, the first year of the pandemic, this number jumped to 481 and in 2021 to date (a partial year), there have been 641 through October.

Many New Hampshire schools continue to struggle with the complex social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students and staff alike. These struggles have been compounded since COVID-19. Multi-Tiered System of Support for Behavioral (MTSS-B) and Student Assistance Programs (SAP) are two proven effective tools to assist schools to meet the behavioral health needs of students, parents/caregivers and staff resulting in improved academic and behavioral health outcomes. Funding will enhance and expand the implementation of these programs in underserved and under-resourced school districts.

**Data Analytic Support for Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey:** Complementing the implementation of MTSS-B and SAP, school administrators and staff need to better comprehend and utilize the YRBS data to understand root causes behind behavioral health needs in NH. Technical assistance to conduct data analysis and examine risk and protective factors will assist school districts in making informed decisions regarding curriculum, policies and programming that lead to better outcomes for students.

**Technical Assistance to Complete Crosswalk of Behavioral Health Plans:** Technical Assistance is needed for the crosswalk because of the existence of multiple plans involving behavioral health and because research shows that mental health, substance misuse and suicide share many of the same risk and protective factors. For this reason, we know that there is potential to better align programs, monitor outcomes and reduce redundancies. Integration of mental health and substance misuse programming across the lifespan could lead to better outcomes for residents and could have financial benefits and benefits to workforce shortages.

The funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Funds in class 041, Audit Fund Set Aside, for financial and compliance audits.

Funds in class 102, Contracts for Program Services, to work with providers support of behavioral health wellness, prevention and early intervention efforts

Area served: Statewide.

Source of Funds: 100% Federal Funds

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 accepting ARP FRF funds, the Department agrees to work collaboratively with the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery to ensure accurate and timely reporting to U.S. Department of Treasury on the use of the funds.

In the event that Federal Funds become no longer available, general funds will not be requested to support the program expenditures.

Respectfully submitted,



For

Lori A. Shibinette  
Commissioner