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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner

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Lori A. Weaver
Deputy Commissioner

December 1, 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, Office of the Commissioner, to accept and expend federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in the amount of \$846,805 which will be used to provide increased staffing support to Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC) effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council approval through June 30, 2023 and further authorize the allocation of these funds in the accounts below. 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.¹ 100% Federal Funds.

05-095-094-940010-24650000 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	\$61,506,353	\$846,805	\$62,353,158
	General Funds			
	Total Revenue	\$61,506,353	\$846,805	\$62,353,158
020-500200	Current Expense	\$1	\$0	\$1
030-500301	Equipment	\$1	\$0	\$1
040-500800	Indirect Costs	\$2,121,473	\$0	\$2,121,473
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$40,938	\$85	\$41,023
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

¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH9513A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH9513Z. 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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059-500117	Temp Full Time	\$98,792	\$0	\$98,792
060-500601	Benefits	\$126,251	\$0	\$126,251
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	\$47,838,937	\$846,720	\$48,685,657
103-502664	Contracts for Ops Services	\$11,271,224	\$0	\$11,271,224
	Total Expenses	\$61,506,353	\$846,805	\$62,353,158

EXPLANATION

The workforce shortage has had a significant adverse impact on SYSC staff recruitment and retention. While SYSC has had difficulty hiring staff in the past, until recently the facility has been able to safely operate relying on overtime offered to SYSC and Juvenile Probation and Parole staff. However, over the past few months, SYSC has had fewer filled Youth Counselor positions than at any prior time. Concurrently, the increased demand for child and adolescent mental health care, which continues to be exacerbated by COVID-19, has significantly increased the intensity of behavioral health needs for youth being detained and committed at SYSC. In the past month, nearly half of the youth in the facility at any given time required 1:1 or 2:1 staffing to ensure youth are not a danger to themselves or others. The combination of fewer filled Youth Counselor positions and increased staffing demands has become untenable.

The funds will be used to enter into a contract with a healthcare staffing agency to provide 18 temporary staff for a period of seven months. Temporary staff will be used to augment state staff on all shifts to maintain safety and youth well-being. The contract will also allow for temporary staff to transition to permanent status, assisting in longer term workforce capacity and stability.

Funds will be budgeted as follows:
Class 102: As described above
Class 041: Required Audit Set Aside

Area served: Statewide

Source of funds: These funds are 100% Federal.

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