



FIS 22 042

MAC

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT

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January 10, 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, authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Hospital to accept and expend federal funds in the amount of \$2,226,201 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fund a behavioral health strike team to assist Hampstead Hospital in rendering care during the COVID-19 pandemic, 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

Table with 5 columns: Class Number, Class Description, FY22 Current Modified Budget, FY22 Increase (Decrease) Amount, FY22 Revised Modified Budget. Rows include FEDERAL FUNDS, CURRENT EXPENSES, EQUIPMENT NEW REPLACEMENT, INDIRECT COSTS, AUDIT FUND SET ASIDE, ADDITIONAL FRINGE BENEFITS, CONSULTANTS, OWN FORCES MAINT BUILD-GRN, CONTRACTUAL MAINT BUILD-GRN, and TEMP FULL TIME.

<sup>1</sup> All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH9517A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH9517Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

060-500601	BENEFITS	\$126,251		\$126,251
102-500731	CONTRACTS FOR PROGRAM SERVI	\$52,188,937	\$2,223,977	\$54,412,914
103-502664	CONTRACTS FOR OP SERVICES	\$11,271,224		\$11,271,224
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$65,860,703</b>	<b>\$2,226,201</b>	<b>\$68,086,904</b>

**EXPLANATION**

The Department is requesting ARPA funding to contract for a behavioral health strike team, which will be assigned to Hampstead Hospital. Currently, Hampstead Hospital has 111 licensed beds; however, its capacity has been capped at fewer than 40 beds due to lack of adequate staffing levels. Throughout the pandemic, the State has seen the waitlist grow for children and youth in need of acute inpatient psychiatric care. The Department is requesting funding to augment Hampstead Hospital staff to increase census and reduce the number of children waiting for care, including in emergency rooms. In addition to benefiting children who require this level of care, reducing emergency room boarding will also aid hospital systems struggling with the surge of COVID-19.

Hampstead Hospital is the only in-state facility that serves children and adolescents in need of inpatient psychiatric stays. The Hospital, like many other health care facilities across New Hampshire, has struggled to maintain staff throughout the pandemic. It also has had youth with complex conditions that have required additional staffing to address their unique needs.

During the first two weeks of December 2021, there was an average of 16 youth on the daily inpatient psychiatric care waitlist in New Hampshire. As shown in the table below, there were five (5) times as many days of waiting in 2021 than in 2019, and 75% more unique youth on the waiting list in 2021 compared to 2019.

	2019	2021
Days on List	1,036	5,014
Unique People	605	1,038

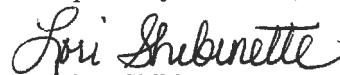
Upon approval, the Department will collaborate with a staffing agency and Hampstead Hospital to bring the strike team on-board. Funding will be used to contract for Registered Nurses, Social Workers, and Mental Health Councilors. It is anticipated that Hampstead Hospital’s census will increase as inpatient units become appropriately staffed. Upon completion of the State’s expected purchase of Hampstead Hospital, the Department may continue these contracts or transfer them to the then-operator of the facility.

Funds will be budgeted as follows:

- Class 041 – The funds will be used to pay for audit fund set aside per State requirements.
- Class 102 – The funds will be used to pay for the contract for the strike team and staffing.

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. Shubinette  
 Commissioner