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**ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

33 CAPITOL STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

FIS 22 064

JOHN M. FORMELLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JANE E. YOUNG
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Karen Umberger, 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 Justice (DOJ) to amend Fiscal Item 21-252, approved by the Fiscal Committee of the General Court on September 17, 2021, and item #92A, approved by the Governor and Executive Council on October 13, 2021, by transferring funds in the amount of \$78,000 between classes from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) for the purpose of accounting for administrative costs upon approval of the Fiscal Committee of the General Court and Governor and Executive Council through June 30, 2023. No additional funds are requested for this item. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds are to be adjusted in account #02-20-20-201510; Department of Justice, Grants Administration, 24790000 ARPA-VOCA as follows:

<u>Class/Expense</u>	<u>Class Title</u>	<u>SFY 2022 Budget</u>	<u>Requested Change</u>	<u>SFY 2022 Adjusted Budget</u>
029-500290	Transfers Within An Agency	\$0	\$78,000	\$78,000
072-500575	Grants-Federal	\$4,715,000	(\$78,000)	\$4,637,000
085-5885XX	Interagency Transfer Out Of Federal Funds	\$285,000	\$0	\$285,000
Total		\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chairman
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January 25, 2022
Page 2 of 3

Source of Funds

000-400338	Federal Funds	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000
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EXPLANATION

The Department of Justice obtained approval to receive funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to maintain important services to victims of crime; an allowable use of ARP FRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1) (C) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.

DOJ is requesting to transfer funds from class 072, Grants Federal, to class 029, Transfers Within An Agency, to properly account for the cost of administering and monitoring the fund through June 30, 2023.

In the event that federal funds become no longer available, general funds will not be requested to support this program.

Per the Budget Officer's instructional memorandum dated April 17, 1985, the required information is provided below:

1. *Justification:* The transfer from class 029 to 072 will allow the Department of Justice to properly account for the cost of administering and monitoring the fund.
2. *Does this transfer involve continuing programs or one-time projects?* This is a technical correction to move funds from class 072 to class 029 to cover administrative costs.
3. *Is this transfer required to maintain existing program levels or will it increase the program level?* This transfer will cover the costs of administering, reviewing, and monitoring subgrant disbursements.
4. *Cite any requirements which make this program mandatory:* N/A
5. *Identify the source of funds on all accounts listed on this transfer.* 100% federal funds.
6. *Will there be any effect on revenue if this transfer is not approved?* If this item is not approved, the Department of Justice will not be able to cover administration costs.
7. *Are funds expected to lapse if this transfer is not approved?* No.
8. *Are personnel services involved?* No positions are being transferred because of this request.

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chairman
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January 25, 2022
Page 3 of 3

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.M. Formella", is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark or seal.

John M. Formella
Attorney General

#3429669

sam

**ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

FIS 21 252

33 CAPITOL STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

JOHN M. FORMELLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JANE E. YOUNG
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 13, 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 Justice (DOJ) to accept and expend federal funds in the amount of \$5,000,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) for the purpose of subgranting funds to existing subgrantees in order to address the increased need for victim services upon the approvals of the Fiscal Committee of the General Court and Governor and Executive Council. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds are to be budgeted in account #02-20-20-201510; Department of Justice, Grants Administration, 24790000 ARPA Grant as follows. All transactions will be accounted for using activity codes, to be determined and assigned by the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery:

<u>Class/Expense</u>	<u>Class Title</u>	<u>SFY 2022 Budget</u>
072-500575	Grants-Federal	\$4,715,000
085-5885XX	Interagency Transfer Out Of Federal Funds	\$285,000
Total		<u><u>\$5,000,000</u></u>
 <u>Source of Funds</u>		
000-400338	Federal Funds	<u><u>\$5,000,000</u></u>

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council

August 13, 2021
Page 2 of 3

EXPLANATION

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is requesting to accept and expend funds from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) for purpose of subgranting funds to existing subgrantees in order to address the increased need for victim services.

Federal award funds, for this item, are budgeted to support grant activities as follows:

072-500575-Grants to direct service providers to victims of crime and payment for
administration of the grant.
085-5885XX-Grants to state agencies.

The DOJ subgrants funds, for direct victim services, from the Victims of Crime Act Grant (VOCA). VOCA was enacted by Congress in 1984 and it established the Crime Victims Fund. Fines paid by offenders of federal crimes are deposited into this Fund. Money from the Fund is then distributed to states for the benefit of victims of crime. Due to reduced criminal fines and and penalty deposits into the fund and non-prosecution agreements that divert funds for other purposes, VOCA awards have been reduced dramatically resulting in decreased subgrants to victim service providers.

This reduction has come at a time when victim service providers are experiencing an increase in need. In New Hampshire, for calendar year 2020, calls to domestic violence and sexual assault crisis lines increased by 63% and emergency shelters, for domestic violence victims, increased by 24% in 2020 compared to 2019. The pandemic brought new sets of challenges for victims, who were exposed to more severe cases of violence and abuse, trying to access services and support.

Despite relaxed COVID-19 restrictions, there are indications that the need for victim services will continue to increase. Mandated social isolation, compounded with the fear of getting sick, instantly provided new ways for abusive partners to leverage power and control. Additionally, job loss and financial instability has augmented the impact of economic abuse, which further makes it difficult for survivors to access resources. As COVID-19 has had a severe impact on mental health and substance misuse in our communities, it is important to continue to provide mental health and wellness services. This is especially important for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, who have a higher vulnerability to homelessness, substance abuse, and poverty compared to the general population who have never experienced abuse.¹

¹ Supporting the Most Vulnerable; The New Hampshire Coalition on Domestic and Sexual Violence

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August 13, 2021

Page 3 of 3

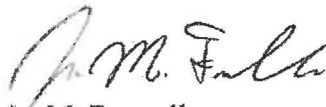
During the pandemic, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) saw a drastic drop in reports of child abuse and neglect suspicions. During this same time, New Hampshire saw a significant drop in Child Advocacy Center (CAC) referrals from law enforcement and DCYF. The lack of reporting is directly connected to limited personal interactions between children and adults, who would most likely report concerns (teachers, medical/mental health providers and other professionals working with youths).

In 2020, all 11 of New Hampshire's CACs remained open to serve the needs of child victims of abuse and their caregivers. The CACs experienced a 66% increase in referrals for forensic interviews from April through June 2020. There was also a 28% increase in interviews for June 2020 as compared to June 2019². With relaxed restrictions, CASA of NH is anticipating a surge in the number of cases that require a child advocate. In addition, backlogged court cases plus new cases will result in more victims in need of services.

VOCA funds provide subgrants to Child Advocacy Centers, the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Northern Human Services, Catholic Charities, CASA, New Hampshire Legal Assistance, the Department of Corrections, county advocates and many more vital victim service agencies. ARPA funding is requested to maintain important services to victims of crime. This is an allowable use of ARP FRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1) (C) 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,



John M. Formella
Attorney General

#3247110

² Annual Impact Report 2020, Granite State Children's Alliance