



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

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April 25, 2022

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, NH

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 Environmental Services (NHDES) to accept and expend \$283,500 in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to provide support for the Land Resource Management Program, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor & Council approval through June 30, 2023. Funding is 100% Federal Funds. This is an allowable use of ARP FRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(D) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.

NHDES is requesting transfer of funding as follows:

ARPA DES LOANS¹
03-44-44-440010-2476
Fiscal Years 2022

| Class | Budget Category | Current Budget | Requested Action | Revised Budget |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Income | | | | |
| 000-400338 | Federal Funds | (\$150,002,478) | (\$283,500) | (\$150,285,978) |
| Expenditures | | | | |
| 18-500106 | Overtime | \$40,000 | 0 | \$40,000 |
| 20-500200 | Current Expense | \$24,937 | 0 | \$24,937 |
| 22-500255 | Building Rent-Other than State | \$3,700 | 0 | \$3,700 |
| 24-500225 | Maint Other than Bldg/Grnds | \$3,000 | 0 | \$3,000 |
| 27-582703 | Transfers to OIT | \$88,740 | 0 | \$88,740 |

¹ All program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602WB4401Z for administrative and indirect costs. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

| Class Con't | Budget Category | Current Budget | Requested Action | Revised Budget |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 28-582814 | Transfers to General Services | \$63,396 | 0 | \$63,396 |
| 30-500321 | Equipment | \$28,171 | 0 | \$28,171 |
| 37-500174 | Technology-Hardware | \$19,380 | 0 | \$19,380 |
| 38-500175 | Technology Software | \$12,360 | 0 | \$12,360 |
| 39-500188 | Telecommunications | \$17,549 | 0 | \$17,549 |
| 40-500800 | Indirect Costs | \$155,870 | 9,262 | \$165,132 |
| 41-500801 | Audit Set-Aside | \$150,000 | 284 | \$150,284 |
| 42-500620 | Additional Fringe Benefits | \$84,515 | 16,684 | \$101,199 |
| 46-500463 | Consultants | \$300,000 | 0 | \$300,000 |
| 50-500109 | Part Time Personnel | \$591,004 | 157,210 | \$748,214 |
| 59-500117 | Full Time Temporary | \$918,531 | 0 | \$918,531 |
| 60-500601 | Benefits | \$829,132 | 100,060 | \$929,192 |
| 66-500544 | Employee Training | \$6,800 | 0 | \$6,800 |
| 70-500705 | In-State Travel | \$9,500 | 0 | \$9,500 |
| 72-500574 | Grants – Federal | \$142,740,754 | 0 | \$142,740,754 |
| 80-500710 | Out of State Travel | \$3,500 | 0 | \$3,500 |
| 85-5885xx | Inter Agcy Xfr Out of Federal Funds | \$2,211,639 | 0 | \$2,211,639 |
| 102-500731 | Contracts for Program Services | \$1,700,000 | 0 | \$1,700,000 |
| | Total | \$150,002,478 | \$283,500 | \$150,285,978 |

EXPLANATION

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 117th United States Congress and signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, to speed up the United States' recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant recession. The Act defines eligible uses of the state and local funding, including responding to public health emergency, responding to workers performing essential work during the COVID -19 emergency, providing revenue relief to states and making investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

The NHDES Land Resources Management Program is responsible for issuing permits for development projects. ARPA funding for infrastructure projects will increase demand for permits, many of which will need to be processed on an expedited timeline to meet federal deadlines. Additional staffing is needed to handle this surge of permits without delays. The strategy will be to speed up permitting decisions for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects through outreach and training of consultants and state employees to improve both the quality of applications submitted and the speed of reviews. The

resulting improvement in processing times will smooth the way for the surge of infrastructure projects as well as needed development throughout the state.

NHDES is requesting to budget these additional funds as shown below:

- Class 040 To cover the program share of statewide indirect costs.
- Class 041 To cover the cost of Audit Set-Aside charges related to the federal program.
- Class 042 To cover the program share of additional fringe benefit costs.
- Class 050 The additional amount of \$157,210 will not be used for new positions. These funds are available in support of an expanded program beyond the original budget scope. Employee support from other DES organizational units will be utilized to administer this program. These funds will be used to replace funding of the following full time positions. FAQ 48 from US Treasury states that payroll and benefits of employees managing new grant programs established with FRF is an allowable use.

| Position # | Title | Account 03-44-44- | Funding Mix | Amount |
|------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 43237 | Environmentalist IV | 442010-3855 | 100% Other | \$86,823 |
| 42193 | Environmentalist III | 442010-3855 | 100% Other | \$70,387 |
| | | | Total | \$157,210 |

Funding in the amount of \$152,210 which is budgeted for the current positions, will either be lapsed or closed to control resulting in a net zero increase in budgeted funds.

- Class 060 To cover benefits for personnel costs.

We respectfully request your approval of these items.



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner
NH Department of Environmental Services