



Kimberly M MacKay
Commandant

New Hampshire Veterans Home

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August 29, 2022

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, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the New Hampshire Veterans Home to accept and expend \$638,638 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) to update and invest in the fire suppression system at the Veterans Home, effective upon approval by the Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council through June 30, 2023. This is an allowable use of ARPA SFRF funds under Section 602 (C)(1)(C) for provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue. **100% Federal Funds.**

Funds will be assigned to the new accounting unit 05-43-43-430010-2XXX0000¹ New Hampshire Veterans Home, NH Veterans Home Fire Suppression, as follows:

Class/Object	Description	FY23 Requested Action
000-400338	Federal Funds	638,638
	Total Revenue	638,638
034-500152	Design, Study, and BPW Fees	\$117,000
040-500800	Indirect Costs	\$2,500
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$638
048-500226	Contract Repairs	\$518,500
	Program total:	\$638,638

¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602GS4301A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602GS4301Z. 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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EXPLANATION

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), recognizes the NHVH as a certified State Veteran Home (SVH). The VA's survey and certification process requires SVH's that provide nursing home care, domiciliary care and/or adult day health care to receive annual surveys in order to maintain certain levels of federal funding. Standards SVH's must meet, and are inspected for, are outlined in 38 USC Part 51 (Subpart D).

During its most recent annual survey of the NHVH, the VA found a deficiency in the NHVH's fire suppression system - insufficient sprinkler systems in each resident closet pursuant to section 19.3.5 of NFPA 10, Life Safety Code. The NHVH disputed this requirement under an interpretation of the Fire Marshall having local jurisdiction of a "small room exemption," but the dispute was denied. The NHVH subsequently submitted a Corrective Action Plan, which was accepted by the Department of Veteran's Affairs. As a result, the NHVH has received a "Provisional Certification Status" under the VA, but it is not currently at risk of losing federal funding or shutting down. However, that provisional status is approved for a year and the NHVH will operate under that status until the deficiency is resolved.

The NHVH is requesting ARPA SFRF funds to cover the cost of and complete this project, which would otherwise require investment of Operating and Capital Budget funds or result in non-ideal/nonconventional ways to regain compliance that would impact the quality of life of Veterans at NHVH. For example, removing closet doors and risking a lack of privacy, would be examined as a last resort.

The NHVH would work with the Bureau of Public Works to timely complete the project, curing the fire suppression issue identified by the Department of Veterans Affairs and ensuring the State's veterans residing at NHVH continue to live in a safe environment.

Funds are budgeted as follows:

Class 034 - Design, Study, and BPW Fees – used for proper study, estimation, design and pressure tests as needed.

Class 040 - Indirect Expenses - at a rate of 0.004%

Class 041 - Audit Fund Set Aside - at a rate of 0.01 %

Class 048 - Contract Repairs, Buildings & Grounds - includes design, maintenance,

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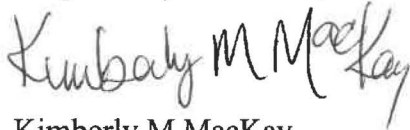
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repair, and installation of new sprinkler system installed in resident's closets as directed by VA. Installation will be performed by contracted vendors. Services provided may include, but are not limited to, sprinkler design, tank cleansing, retrofit, and other associated improvements .

In the event that Federal Funds are no longer available, Capital Funds in SFY 24-25 Biennium may be requested to support this critical project. The New Hampshire Veterans Home requests approval of this request.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly M MacKay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kimberly M MacKay
Commandant