



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

July 17, 2020

Gerald Little
Director
Governor's Office of Emergency Relief and Recovery
100 North Main Street, Suite 100
Concord, N.H. 03301

Dear Director Little,

Pursuant to my authority under RSA 21-P:43; RSA 4:45; RSA 4:47; and Executive Order 2020-04, as extended by Executive Orders 2020-05, 2020-08, 2020-09, 2020-10, 2020-14, and 2020-15 I have approved your written request, in attachment, to take the following actions related to the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds:

1. Transfer \$1,426,960 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding to the New Hampshire Judicial Council (NHJC), vendor# 177871, Concord, NH, to cover eligible COVID-19 related expenses incurred from March 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020. Budgeted consistent with the information in the request in attachment, effective through December 30, 2020. (100% Federal Funds)
2. Authorize NHJC to accept and expend \$1,426,960 from the GOFERR in support of the COVID-19 response efforts. Budgeted consistent with the information in the request in attachment, effective through December 30, 2020. (100% Other Funds)

The Department of Administrative Services is authorized to take the actions necessary to effectuate this authorization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clitch T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

CC Charles Arlinghaus, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services
CC Sarah Blodgett, Executive Director, Judicial Council



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

for

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
State House
Concord NH 03301

July 16, 2020

REQUESTED ACTION UNDER RSA 21-P:43; RSA 4:45; RSA 4:47; AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-04, AS EXTENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDERS 2020-05, 2020-08, 2020-09, 2020-10 AND, 2020-14

Dear Governor Sununu:

1. The Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) requests authority to transfer \$1,426,960 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding to the New Hampshire Judicial Council (NHJC), vendor# 177871, Concord, NH, to cover eligible COVID-19 related expenses incurred from March 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds for this transfer are available in 01-02-002-020210 - Governor's Office for Emergency Relief & Recovery, 19110000 - Office of the Director, as follows:

085-588507 - Inter-Agency Transfer of Federal Funds

FY2021
\$1,426,960

2. Contingent upon approval of Requested Action #1, authorize the NHJC to accept and expend \$1,426,960 from the GOFERR in support of the COVID-19 response efforts. These appropriations will be budgeted in FY2021 as allocated below:

02-07-07-070010-10990000 COURT APPOINTED SPEC. ADV-CASA		
CLASS	ACCOUNT	REQUESTED BUDGET
102 - CONTRACTS FOR PROGRAM SERVICES	500731	\$ 900,000
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 900,000
SOURCE OF FUNDS		
00D - CONTRACTS FOR PROGRAM SERVICES	488502	\$ 900,000
	TOTAL FUNDS	\$ 900,000
02-07-07-070010-10920000 GUARDIAN AD LITEM		
CLASS	ACCOUNT	REQUESTED BUDGET
108 - CONTRACTS FOR PROGRAM SERVICES	500751	\$ 200,000
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 200,000
SOURCE OF FUNDS		
00D - CONTRACTS FOR PROGRAM SERVICES	488502	\$ 200,000
	TOTAL FUNDS	\$ 200,000
02-07-07-070010-10940000 PUBLIC DEFENDER PROGRAM		
CLASS	ACCOUNT	REQUESTED BUDGET
102 - CONTRACTS FOR PROGRAM SERVICES	500731	\$ 326,960
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 326,960
SOURCE OF FUNDS		
00D - CONTRACTS FOR PROGRAM SERVICES	488502	\$ 326,960
	TOTAL FUNDS	\$ 326,960

EXPLANATION

The Governor has authorized the emergency allocation and expenditure of \$1,426,960 total to Judicial Council, to cover eligible COVID-19-related expenses incurred from March 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020.

Funds for 1099 Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA): The Council contracts with CASA of New Hampshire (CASA) to provide guardian ad litem services in child protection cases. CASA's state appropriation represents just a portion of its operating budget. CASA has traditionally received fifty percent of its budget from its state contract and federal grants and the balance from events, private donors and foundations, and other fundraisers. The Council anticipates that due to a decrease in fundraising, CASA's general fund appropriation will be insufficient to meet operating costs through December 31, 2020.

When CASA is unable to accept an appointment in a child protection case, a private guardian ad litem is appointed. The Council also pays for this expenditure. While it is not possible to accurately predict the impact of COVID-19 on the rate of child protection cases, based on information from New Hampshire stakeholders and other sources, an increase in child protection cases should be anticipated. This funding will address CASA's anticipated COVID-19 related revenue shortfalls, and the anticipated caseload increase. In addition to an overall increase in case numbers, the return to traditional classrooms is expected to result in an immediate and significant increase in cases.

Funds for 1092 Guardian Ad Litem: This anticipated child protection caseload increase will also impact the private Guardian ad Litem line. The FY21 appropriation for this budget line is \$150,000. FY20 YTD expenditures were approximately \$345,000. CARES Act funding is only intended to address costs that

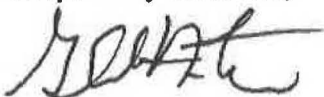
were not accounted for in the most recently approved budget. Expenditures would have exceeded the appropriation independent of COVID-19, however, the anticipated timing and influx of cases is a result of COVID-19. An estimated \$200,000 would prepare this budget line for these unanticipated expenditures that will be incurred up to December 30, 2020.

Funds for 1094 New Hampshire Public Defender Program (NHPD): The funds for NHPD are intended to support unanticipated technology upgrades that were necessary to provide constitutionally mandated representation to indigent defendants. Since the pandemic, the New Hampshire Public Defender (NHPD) has had to fundamentally change the way that it provides constitutionally mandated representation to indigent defendants. Court hearings, staff meetings and client visits are now almost all being done remotely. This is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

Specifically, NHPD upgraded its Microsoft 365 to provide better support for remote workers; it leased Surface Pro 7s to allow for both video conferencing and access to the office's case management system; and it paid to transition to cloud-based storage. The Surface Pro 7s were originally leased, but are now in the process of being purchased.

All unbudgeted expenses due to COVID-19 must be incurred by the recipient before December 30, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald H. Little
Director, GOFERR