



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

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

September 11, 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, 2020-15, 2020-16 and 2020-17 I have approved your written request, in attachment, to take the following actions related to the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds:

1. Authority to transfer \$5,000,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in support of the COVID-19 response efforts. Budgeted consistent with the information in the request in attachment, effective through December 30, 2020. (100% Federal Funds)
2. Authorize DHHS to accept and expend \$5,000,000 from the GOFERR to support New Hampshire Child Care Recovery and Stabilization Program (CCRSP). 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 "Christopher T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

CC Charles Arlinghaus, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services
Lori Shibinette, Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

for

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

September 10, 2020

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

REQUESTED ACTION UNDER RSA 21-P:43; RSA 4:45; RSA 4:47; AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-04 AS EXTENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-05, 2020-08, 2020-09, 2020-10, 2020-14, 2020-15 2020-16 AND 2020-17

Dear Governor Sununu,

- 1. The Governor's Office For Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) requests authority to transfer \$5,000,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in support of the COVID-19 response efforts effective upon your approval through December 30, 2020. 100% Federal Funds.

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

085-588595 - Inter-Agency Transfer of Federal Funds FY2021 \$5,000,000

- 2. Contingent upon approval of Action Item #1, authorize DHHS to accept and expend \$5,000,000 from the GOFERR to support New Hampshire Child Care Recovery and Stabilization Program (CCRSP) effective upon your approval through December 30, 2020. 100% Other Funds.

Funds will be budgeted as follows:

Table with 3 columns: CLASS, ACCOUNT, BUDGET REQUEST. Rows include 05-95-42-421110-19400000 CHILD CARE - GOFERR FUNDS, 102 - CONTRACTS FOR PROGRAM SERVICES, SOURCE OF FUNDS, and OOD - Transfer of Federal Funds.

EXPLANATION

The Department(s) of Health and Human Services and Education have developed a three part plan to support urgent child care needs now, while simultaneously looking to the future as part of a holistic early care and education system: Phase One – Emergency Response, Phase Two – Stabilization and Recovery, and Phase Three - Build It Back – Better (BBB).

Over the last two years, there have been significant targeted efforts to reinvent and improve the early childhood care and education (ECCE) system. These efforts include an Executive Order to establish the NH Council for Thriving Children, the Preschool Development Grant and the Whole Family Approach to Jobs: Parents Working, Children Thriving initiative. These efforts are tightly linked to ensure efficient use of resources, quality and improved experiences for children and families. These efforts, including the spring launch of the NH Council for Thriving Children (the Council), will be leveraged in tandem with GOFERR funding to support parents and childcare professionals returning to work and continue to meet the needs of families, employers, and the ECCE system as we move through the different phases of the pandemic and beyond.

In the plan approved by GOFERR, the following areas were identified for funding:

1. Promoting health and safety, including training and technical assistance in the areas of infectious disease, early childhood mental and behavioral health, and family support; assistance with compliance with CDC guidelines and NH public health response efforts; and funding for cleaning supplies, PPE and increased staff to meet health and safety guidelines
2. Ensuring financial stability, including specific targeted stabilization/retention grants for the childcare industry and family resource centers during the pandemic to cover the costs of smaller ratios, group sizes, labor flexibility (due to anticipated absences), and health costs (from screening to prevention to sanitation to treatment).
3. Supporting infrastructure and coordination of statewide efforts with local/regional hubs, including connecting programs with one another and public schools, such as 21st Century Community Learning Center programs, to meet community needs.

The request for the transfer of the additional \$5M will assist with items 1 and 3 above while continuing to focus on item 2, ensuring financial stability for the child care industry and family resource centers.

Funds to be allocated as follows:

1. Development of a child care/early childhood and afterschool data information system - The data system is a critical component of a child care/early childhood and afterschool program state infrastructure for a rapid and efficient response to a state of emergency, including the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Partnership with Child Care Aware of NH and Regional Early Childhood/Afterschool Coalitions - Provide training, technical assistance/coaching and support to early childhood and afterschool programs on COVID-related, priority topics and issues. Provide support to regional early childhood/afterschool coalitions to build local program capacity to meet the changing needs of families, businesses and communities during and after the pandemic by fostering family, friend and neighbor care cooperatives; local child care/afterschool hubs; and/or other approaches. Provide administrative/program support to the Bureau to manage the CCRSP Round 2 awards and other COVID-related tasks.

3. **Infrastructure Stabilization** - Addressing the emergent needs of programs and communities as they adapt to changing conditions, continue to stabilize and build back their programs even stronger, and supporting families as they transition back to work. Funds will be used to support CCRSP Round 2 awards to programs and family assistance with the cost of care, particularly for families who are considered vulnerable.

All CARES Act funds must be spent by the recipients before December 30, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph A. Doiron
Deputy Director, GOFERR