



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC & HOUSING STABILITY

Lori A. Shibinette
 Commissioner

Christine L. Santaniello
 Director

129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301
 603-271-9474 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 9474
 Fax: 603-271-4230 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964 www.dhhs.nh.gov

April 12, 2021

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Economic and Housing Stability, to enter into a **Retroactive, Sole Source** grant agreement with Southern New Hampshire Services, Inc. (VC#177198-B006), Manchester, NH, in the amount of \$105,000, to support the immediate need for child care in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, while establishing a holistic, sustainable, and high-quality early childhood and afterschool care and education system statewide, effective retroactive to March 15, 2021, upon Governor approval through December 31, 2021. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds are available in the following account for State Fiscal Year 2021 and are anticipated to be available in State Fiscal Year 2022, with the authority to adjust budget line items within the price limitation through the Budget Office, if needed and justified.

05-95-42-421110-29770000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVCS, HHS: HUMAN SERVICES, CHILD DEVELOPMENT, CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

State Fiscal Year	Class / Account	Class Title	Job Number	Total Amount
2021	102-500731	Contracts for Prog Svcs	42117767	\$105,000
2022	102-500731	Contracts for Prog Svcs	42117767	\$0
			Total	\$105,000

EXPLANATION

This request is **Sole Source** because the Grantee has the statewide child care resource and referral contract, partners with the Department on the data system, and is therefore the only vendor able to provide the necessary services.

This request is **Retroactive** because the Department, in the interest of the public's health and safety, needed the Grantee to immediately begin providing these services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the funds anticipated to be available in State Fiscal Year 2021 were not yet appropriated in the operating budget.

The purpose of this request is to support the immediate and increased need for child care resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, while establishing a holistic, sustainable and high-quality early childhood and afterschool care and education system statewide. COVID-19 recommendations for child care and afterschool care have placed financial burdens on child care

providers in addition to the challenge of needing to reduce and/or increase the number of required staff over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Grantee will provide ongoing support for 800+ licensed and license-exempt child care providers and programs statewide by administering the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Assistance (CRRSA) program.

Approximately 4,500 child care workers and 40,000 children (ages birth through age 12) along with 300 to 400 TANF recipients and multiple family units will be served from March 15, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

The Grantee will assist the Department, child care agencies, and family child care providers with completing required paperwork, payments, and reports; determining appropriate use of funds; and facilitating connections to technical assistance and other available resources. By providing these supportive services, the Grantee will ensure that child care providers receive essential funding to help stabilize ongoing operations and service delivery to families statewide in need of child care during the ongoing pandemic.

These services also address two additional critical need areas adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic: the shortage of family child care particularly relevant for families in need of care for infants/toddlers and nontraditional work hours; and, the child care staffing shortage by exploring the potential of recruiting TANF recipients to enter the workforce and other strategies.

The Grantee will also provide outreach support to the Child Care Career Exploration Project designed to connect individuals with job and career options in early childhood care or school age child care centers. Additionally, the Grantee will support the Department in creating and launching the Family Child Care Initiative. This increased capacity will be used to meet the needs of the community during the recent economic changes and to expand access to family child care for families seeking smaller settings for their children due to COVID concerns.

Area served: Statewide

Source of Funds: CFDA #93.575, FAIN #2101NHCCC5

In the event that the Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner

I hereby approve this request pursuant to RSA 4:45, RSA 21-P:43, and Section 4 of Executive Order 2020-04 as extended by Executive Orders 2020-05, 2020-08, 2020-09, 2020-10, 2020-14, 2020-15, 2020-16, 2020-17, 2020-18, 2020-20, 2020-21, 2020-23, 2020-24, 2020-25, 2021-01, 2021-02, 2021-04, and 2021-05, and suspend the Manual of Procedures 150, V., A., 3 requirement.

4.12.21

Date



Name: Governor Christopher T. Sununu