



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Executive Council

STATE HOUSE ROOM 207

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301

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TO: All District Three Constituents
FROM: Executive Councilor Janet Stevens

DATE: April 20, 2022

The Executive Council conducted a series of meetings on **Wednesday, April 20, 2022**. The Breakfast Meeting was held at the proposed Franklin site for the recently approved **Camp NH, a first of its kind in the nation veteran housing and retreat center.**

At the March 23, 2022 Executive Council meeting, I proudly supported the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$23,000,000, from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF), for Camp NH. Approval to accept and expend \$23 million in funding will allow the state to formalize a contractual agreement with Easter Seals NH, the current owner of the 15-acre Franklin, NH site.

The purpose of Camp NH (Veterans Campus) is to complement traditional veterans health care - offered through the Veterans Administration system or the New Hampshire's Veterans Home (long term) - while integrating care coordination, therapeutic and recreational services, and housing in a centralized location.

“Far too many veterans end up homeless in New Hampshire. More than 5,000 veterans in New Hampshire struggle to afford housing every year” (Harbor Care).

The current plan includes 30-40 units of permanent and supportive housing and a 30-bed retreat center for the military and veteran community. There are five buildings at the site - totalling more than 66,000 sq ft. - which will be renovated to support housing. Renovations will provide office space behavioral health, including mental health and substance use treatment programs, care coordination via Easter Seals NH, home care services and transportation services.

The philanthropic division of Easter Seals NH, Veterans Count, has committed to covering operational costs.

The campus is ideally situated to provide therapeutic recreation for veterans. Direct access to the Merrimack River (fishing, canoeing/kayaking) and Northern Rail Trail (walking, cycling) is a bonus. Within the campus, veterans will have access to equine and canine therapy, full access water sports and therapies (pool), an amphitheater for gatherings, full access archery range, basketball courts etc.

Anything and everything for our troops!

I SUPPORTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT INVEST NH HOUSING PROGRAM - \$100 MILLION TO ACCELERATE AVAILABILITY OF LOW/MODERATE INCOME HOUSING

I was the sole Councilor to vote in support of accepting and expending federal dollars - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery (SFR) funds - for the InVest NH Housing Program. **The primary component of InVest NH Housing Program, accelerated access to rental housing units, will provide up to \$50 million in grants for owners and developers to assist with construction and hard costs in building new multifamily projects, which are underway.** There is a dollar-for-dollar match with funding capped at \$3 million per project. The request was eventually tabled. **I will make the motion at the Wednesday, May 5, 2022 Executive Council meeting to put InVest NH back on the table - and once again - will support this program.**

By statute, RSA 14:30-a, VI acceptance and expenditure of federal funds in excess of \$100,000 *which under state law require the approval of governor and council for acceptance and expenditure, may be accepted and expended by the proper persons or agencies in the state government only with the prior approval.* Once the revenue transaction is complete, an agency, in this situation the Department of Business and Economic Affairs, can begin negotiating and finalizing a contract (Easter Seals NH). Content within a requested action to accept and expend is typically implicit and any requests to present an accept and expend with a draft contract - is not permissible. The Executive Council will review all projects awarded funding.

The Funds from the InVest NH project are not in and of themselves - going to build any individual project - It's going to be part of the funding stack that is in place.

The Invest NH capital grant program will target “pre-qualified” projects that have been awarded funding specifically for low/moderate income housing units (3 or more per structure), from entities such as the NH Housing Finance Authority or from private sources. The NHHFA has well established programs to assist with the development of low/moderate housing projects and will receive \$10 million for InVest NH programming costs. Applicants for projects with more than 15 units or more than \$3 million in total development costs must demonstrate an affordability commitment. There will be specific guidance for projects with less than 15 units or less than \$3 million. **I will share details following Wednesday's meeting.**

The program will obligate up to \$30 million for municipalities which issue permits for eligible housing units within six months of initial application. Grant awards will be \$10,000 per unit with projects and municipalities capped at \$1 million. In addition, \$5 million in grant funding will be available to assist municipalities identify causes of lack of affordable housing and potentially make zoning changes. Demolition grants - totalling \$5 million - will also be available for municipalities that demonstrate how use of this funding will improve housing situations.

New Hampshire's current vacancy rate is .6%. A healthy market rate for rental unit vacancies is 3% - 6%. This funding is critical to addressing our state's housing crisis and the InVest NH Housing program will function as an acceleration to expanding capacity. **The program will also provide for gap funding to get projects across the finish line. Construction costs for 2020-2021 increased by 17.5% which is the largest price spike in 50 years. Market fluctuations for labor and material costs have driven up costs.**

The volatility in building costs is anticipated to continue throughout 2022. The program will assist builders with necessary capital to complete projects - in a timely manner.

Following the Breakfast Meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, the Executive Council resumed work at 10:00 a.m. at the Executive Council Chamber at the New Hampshire State House to review and vote on 116 warrant/agenda items and to approve Civil Commissions, Nominations and Confirmations, as well as Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services Nominations, Confirmations and Appointments.

The Executive Council will vote on the nominees at the next meeting of the Council on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS SERVICES

Major Shelley M. Landry, South Berwick, ME, to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, NH Air National Guard.
Major Ryan M. Tannian, Fremont, NH, to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, NH Air National Guard.
Colonel John W. Pogorek, Strafford, NH, to the rank of Brigadier General, NH Air National Guard.
Major Matthew D. Valentino, Hampton, NH, to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, NH Air National Guard.

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

#C. Authorized the Office of Planning and Development, to amend its award grants to the Regional Planning Commissions as detailed in letter dated March 30, 2022, (originally approved by G&C on 9/15/21, item #51) by changing the split of funds by fiscal year, moving additional funds from FY23 into FY 22, with no set change in total funding and no change to the completion date, to support the Regional Housing needs Assessment Program. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2022. 100% Federal Funds. **Both Rockingham County Regional Planning Commission (RCPC) and Southern NH Regional Planning Commission (SNHRPC) were awarded \$100,000 budgeted for \$50,000 for both years. Disbursements for RCPC will now be \$60,000 and \$40,000 for FY22 and FY23 and disbursements will be \$65,000 and \$35,000 for FY22 and FY23 for SNHRPC.**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Commissioner

#6 Authorized to accept and expend \$33,137,436, of which \$9,088,811 represents funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, to establish an operating budget for **Hampstead Hospital** and further authorize the allocation of these funds in the accounts as detailed in letter dated April 7, 2022. These funds will be used for the operation of Hampstead Hospital, a 111-bed licensed and accredited hospital in Hampstead, NH, to improve the State's ability to provide inpatient psychiatric, behavioral and substance use services **27% Federal, 11% Inter-agency and 62% Agency Income.** (2) Further authorized to establish 21 full-

time, temporary positions. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023. **15% Inter-agency and 85% Agency Income. Contingent upon fiscal committee approval on April 15, 2022.**

#7 Authorized to accept and expend federal funds from the **American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Fund in the amount of \$3,500,000 to support the Empowering Youth Program**, providing grants to nonprofit and for-profit entities for summer and school year youth programming. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023. 100% Federal Funds. Contingent upon fiscal committee approval on April 15, 2022. **The Empower Youth Program was initially offered in '20 with funding from CARES. There were numerous District Three recipients in '20. I am communicating with Youth Organizations throughout the State regarding this recent round of funding. Prior recipients are at the end of this report.**

#11A **TABLED.** Authorized to enter into a sole source contract with Wellpath Recovery Solutions, LLC, Nashville, TN, in the amount of \$52,492,793 for the provision of child and young adult psychiatric inpatient behavioral health services at Hampstead Hospital. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2024, with the option to renew for up to 1 additional year. **26% Federal, 6% General, 68% Other Funds. (Hospital Revenue & Transfers from Other Agencies).**

Division of Medicaid Services

Division of Finance and Procurement

#12 Authorized to accept and expend the federal matching dollars in the amount of **\$12,880,945, to support anticipated costs of the increase in Medicaid caseload resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.** Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023. 100% Federal Funds. Contingent upon fiscal committee approval on April 15, 2022. **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) provided a 6.2% increase to the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage and is available each calendar quarter during the Public Health Emergency. Funding is to cover the costs of increased enrollment and provider services. Participation in New Hampshire's Standard Medicaid and Granite Advantage Healthcare increased by 33% (58,474 new enrollments). Standard Medicaid increased by 19.1%. Rockingham County had the highest percentage increase - 27.9% - for Standard Medicaid (income).**

#14 Authorized to enter into a contract with **Stephen F. Caldwell, DDS, MS, Derry, NH**, in the amount of \$191,360 for orthodontic dental consulting services. Effective upon G&C approval or July 1, 2022, whichever is later, through June 30, 2024, with the option to renew for up to 2 additional years. **50% Federal, 50% General Funds.**

#38 Authorized to accept and place on file the Bureau of Right-of-Way's submission of the Contemplated Awards List for amounts less than \$5,000, for the sum total of \$35,991.29 for the period extending from January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022. **DERRY-LONDONDERRY 4A Twenty-four individual projects received funding for expenses incurred as a result of Exit 4A construction. Total amount of funding is \$27,079.29**

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS SERVICES

[#52](#) Authorized to amend an existing contract with Securitas Security Services, USA, Inc., Manchester, NH, for the continued provision of armed security services at the **Pease Air National Guard Facility in Newington, NH**, by exercising a renewal option by increasing the price limitation by \$1,020,072 from \$1,828,386.72 to \$2,848,458.72 and by extending the completion date from April 30, 2022 to April 30, 2023. Effective upon G&C approval. (2) Further authorize a contingency line in the amount of \$20,401.44 for the purpose or requesting additional security over and above the regular manning outlined within the Scope of Services to cover certain events such as pre and post mobilization events, pre and post deployment ceremonies, special events, statewide pandemic drills, drill weekend traffic control and State Active Duty Missions, bringing the total to \$2,868,860.16. **100% Federal Funds.**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS & FOOD

[#56](#) Authorized the Division of Agricultural Development to enter into a grant with the **NH Winery Association, Newfields, NH** in the amount of \$12,000 to develop an online marketing campaign featuring NH vegetables and berries. Effective upon G&C approval through September 29, 2024. **100% Federal Funds.**

[#66](#) Authorized to finalize the grant agreements using signed terms and conditions and in the amounts totaling \$587,097 from the approved accept and expend \$12,000,000 in **American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Funds, previously approved on October 22, 2021, to grant funds for the safety and emergency equipment program for towns and municipalities**, which will be allowed for reimbursement of such investments incurred by December 31, 2022, that are allowable expenses under ARPA SFRF. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023. 100% Federal Funds. **The following District Three municipalities received funding for safety and emergency equipment: Epping (\$50,000), Kingston (\$47,136), Raymond (\$41,284) and Windham (\$11,647).**

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

[#75](#) Authorized the Division of Parks and Recreation, to enter into a contract with Green Shadow Property Maintenance, LLC, Rollinsford, NH, in the amount of \$217,000 to perform **Beach Cleaning at Hampton Beach State Park**. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2023. **100% Other Funds (Agency Income)**

[#77](#) Authorized the Division of Parks and Recreation, to enter into a contract with **Roots Café and Catering, LLC, Newmarket, NH**, for the operation of food concession services at **Odiorne Point State Park** for five months. The concessionaire agrees to pay \$1,000 per month for space rental at Odiorne Point State Park as well as 10% of total gross sales also due on the 15th of each month. Effective for the period of May 15, 2022 through October 15, 2022, with renewal option for an additional season.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

[#82](#) Authorized to enter into an agreement with the **Town of Exeter, NH**, in the amount of \$118,900 to complete the Squamscott River, Water Integration for Squamscott-Exeter Integrated Plan for the Lincoln Street Subwatershed. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2023. **100% Federal Funds.**

#83 Authorized to enter into grant agreements with the entities as detailed in a letter dated March 28, 2021, for a total of \$102,751 to fund exotic aquatic plant control activities. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2022. **100% Fee Funds. Big Island Pond Corporation was awarded \$46,488.**

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

#114 Authorized the Bureau of Court Facilities, to enter into a Use of Premises Agreement with the **County of Rockingham, NH, for leasing of state owned property located in the Rockingham County Courthouse** at #10 Route 125, Brentwood, NH, for an amount not to exceed \$579,139.08. Effective for the period of May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2025. **100% Agency Funds.**

CONFIRMATIONS

Artist Laureate
 Assistant Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services
Board of Accountancy
 Board of Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics
Board of Dental Examiners
 Board of Licensing for Alcohol and Other Drug Use Professionals
 Board of Nursing
Board of Nursing
 Community College System of New Hampshire, Board of Trustees
 Director, Division of Learner Support, Department of Education
 Occupational Therapy Governing Board

Theophilus N. Martey, Manchester
 Sheri L. Rockburn, Concord
Edward C. David, Seabrook
 Erin V. Jordan, Manchester
Muhenad Samaan, Windham
 Jessica E. Bennett, Bedford
 Michele Melanson-Schmitt, Litchfield
Wendy Stanley Jones, Greenland
 Stephen J. Ellis, Pittsburg
 Melissa A. White, Hopkinton
 Nicole L. Quartulli, Danbury

NOMINATIONS

Adult Parole Board
 Assessing Standards Board
 Director, Division of Municipal and Property, Department of Revenue
 Midwifery Council
 Milk Sanitation Board
 New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights
 New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Authority, Board of Directors
 Volunteer New Hampshire Board of Directors

J. Kirk Trombley, Durham
 Robert L. Edwards, Antrim
 Samuel T. Greene, Jaffrey
 Elizabeth Gaby, Concord
 Bethany Hodge, Hindsdale
 Adrienne Evans, Concord
 Susan Slack, Effingham
 Allyson Snell, Concord

2020 Recipients of Empower Youth Program funded by CARES.

Program Name
Andy's Summer Playhouse, Inc.
Arts In Reach: Encouraging Growth Through The Arts
Barrington Rec - Before & After school programs
Berlin Recreation's Learn to Bowl
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Concord
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Nashua
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem
Boys & Girls Club of Lakes Region
Boys & Girls Club of Manchester
Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley
Bring On The F.U.N (Friends Understanding Needs) dba Berlin Recreation Department
Carroll County YMCA/Camp Huckins
Circle Program
City Year Inc./City Year New Hampshire

Community Care Center (Southern Dist YMCA)
Dover Police Charities/Dover Teen Center
Fun Time University
Gaia Education Outreach Institute @ Wild Rose Farm NH
Girls Inc of New Hampshire Centers and Outreach
Granite State Adaptive
Grasshopper Academy (Collaboration between Concord's Rundlett Middle School, Grow Nashua, and Grasshopper's Landing LLC)
Keck Golden Ticket (The Bike Group)
Keene Family YMCA
Keene Housing Kids Collaborative
Kimball Jenkins
Little Tree Education, LLC
Live Free Recovery Consultants
Living Proof (The Dream Program)
Makin' It Happen Coalition for Resilient Youth, In
Manchester East Cobras
Mill Creek Counseling & Family Services
Mobile Inventors Lab (White Mtn Science Lab)
MY TURN at CHS
MY TURN at FHS
MY TURN at WHS
MY TURN HiSET Program
New Life Ministries of New England
North Country Education Services
North Country Health Consortium
O'Leary Basketball Camp
Pemi Youth Center, Inc.
Plaistow Community YMCA
ReGen Roots agriculture summer internship
Roca Kidz Club
Seabrook Adventure Zone
Seacoast Outright APG Pilot Program
Seymour Osman Community Center
Southern District YMCA/Exeter Area YMCA/Camp Lincoln
Southern Rockingham Coalition for Healthy Youth a program of SERESC
Spark The Dream: Unity is Strength program
Storybook Hollow Early Learning Program LLC
Sustained Educational Programming for Coos County Youth in Grades K-12 - Appalachian Mountain Club
The Center - see TLC same organization
The Friends Program, Inc.
The Pine Street Players
Thrive Outdoors, LLC
Tilly Café/ Town of Colebrook
TLC Family Resource Center
UNH Extension 4-H Youth Development
UpReach Therapeutic Equestrian Center Equine Assisted Learning
Victory Women Vision
Webster House
Weekend Workout for Body, Mind, & Soul
WYLD

YMCA Camp Coniston
YMCA Downtown Manchester Teen Center (The Granite YMCA)
YMCA Teen Leaders Club Mentoring for Remote Learners at Westwood Park Y
YMCA Teen Leaders Club Mentoring for Remote Learners at YMCA Camp Sargent
Youth Enrichment Partnership: Academic Support and Behavioral Health Services