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the process instructions.

Agency/Point of Contact: Diane Rydrych, Assistant Commissioner, MDH

Title of Request: Emergency Staffing Pool -Hospital Supplemental Staffing

Date: 1/8/2022 **Request Amount:** \$ 40,000,000

Expenditure Time Period: 1/15/2022 to 6/30/2023

Brief Summary of Request: (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

MDH requests authorization of \$40 million to procure emergency staffing support for hospitals experiencing extreme staffing shortages that are compromising the ability to provide patient care during a COVID wave that is resulting in both a higher need for hospital-level care and increased numbers of providers out due to quarantine or isolation. There is an urgent need for additional nursing, respiratory therapy, and other clinical providers who can supplement existing hospital teams during what is anticipated to be a steep rise in hospitalizations over the coming weeks. MDH will need 1 FTE to administer the program. \$10 million has been tentatively committed by the hospitals for this initiative, which will reimburse this fund.

The \$40 million will cover the costs for providers (mostly RNs) who would work 60 hours per week for 60 days, including all lodging, per diem, and other associated costs that are part of the contract. Decisions about which hospitals will receive emergency staffing support will be based on a regional distribution, with recommendations from care delivery systems and regional coalitions that draw on current data on hospital capacity and regional needs.

All emergency staff must be vaccinated against COVID prior to any deployment and undergo regular COVID infection surveillance testing, and must meet all MN licensure requirements. Facilities who receive referrals of emergency staff will be responsible for vetting them and making decisions about whether and how to use them in their facility, and must still meet all state and federal regulatory requirements related to the care that emergency staff provide while working in the facility.

Emergency temporary hospital staffing is an appropriate use of the state fiscal recovery funds (SFRF). The expenditure is a direct response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. It provides temporary replacement workers to care for individuals in hospital settings experiencing staffing shortages related to COVID-19.

Margaret Kelly

Digitally signed by Margaret Kelly
Date: 2022.01.10 14:07:17 -06'00'

Department Head Signature

Date