

American Rescue Plan (ARP) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) Request Form

Please complete this form in accordance with the process instructions.

Agency/Point of Contact: Diane Rydrych, MDH and Dan Pollock, DHS

Title of Request: Emergency Staffing Pool -Hospital Decompression (extension to June 30, 2022)

Date: 1/10/2022 **Request Amount:** \$ 5,000,000

Expenditure Time Period: 2/1/2022 to 6/30/2023

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

MDH and DHS request authorization of \$5 million to continue and expand the hospital decompression program using emergency staffing for the purpose of expanding temporary staff at five skilled nursing facilities agreeing to assist with decompression of hospital beds. There are currently 4 nursing facilities using temporary staff to provide beds for individuals who no longer meet hospital-level care. There is an urgent need for additional funds to provide post-acute care for COVID-19 positive and other patients who no longer require hospital-level care. This effort will be jointly managed by DHS and MDH. Individual patient discharge decisions will be governed by all current applicable laws. The previous 2021 ARPA funding for this project will be exhausted by the end of February 2022. DHS and MDH will need 5 FTEs to administer the program. The \$5 Million will cover ongoing private vendor costs of 60 RN/LPNs and 70 certified nurse assistants (CNA) or unlicensed direct support professionals and to offer completion bonuses to each worker who stays with the program.

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

Funding awards give third party vendors discretion to offer: (1) significantly higher salaries than pre-pandemic wage rates for equivalent licensure levels and relative to training, credentials, background check, license status; (2) at least 14 days of paid sick leave; (3) comprehensive health insurance benefits, including asymptomatic diagnostic testing; (4) workers' compensation coverage; and (5) housing and per diem expenses for the duration of their deployment. All Emergency Temporary Staffing Pool staff must be vaccinated against COVID prior to any deployment and undergo regular COVID infection surveillance testing.

Margaret Kelly Digitally signed by Margaret Kelly
Date: 2022.01.11 09:22:21 -06'00'

Department Head Signature

Date