

**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:** Minnesota Department of Health/Margaret Kelly

**Title of Request:** COVID Response Staffing

**Date:** 12/7/2021 **Request Amount:** \$ 4,500,000

**Expenditure Time Period:** 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2023 (no later than 6/30/2023)

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

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) requests \$4,500,000 to continue leading and coordinating the statewide COVID pandemic response. The state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic transitioned from a unified command structure with the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to MDH on July 1, 2021. Prior to July 1, response leadership and support costs were paid by COVID-19 Minnesota Funds, which was a funding source supported by the state's general fund that provided broad allowability for payment of activities and costs. With the ending of that expenditure period on June 30, MDH was challenged to locate funding that could comprehensively address similar leadership coordination and response support expenses.

While MDH is in receipt of Federal awards from CDC to address pandemic response costs, there no longer exists a fully flexible funding source to pay for costs that are not easily separable into narrowly defined testing or vaccination response activities, let alone the ability to fund positions that are required for leadership, planning and support roles. Because the cooperative agreements managed by MDH require CDC approved work plans and are bound by restrictions that limit activities to testing or vaccination separately, pandemic response leadership and coordination positions that require ongoing activities not easily limited to or tracked by subject would be administratively prohibitive to be paid by singular, existing CDC funding sources and would present audit risk.

ARP funding of leadership and response coordination positions will provide required flexibility and financial support to positions and expenses required for coordinating and carrying out overall state COVID testing and vaccination response strategies, including within education and long-term care settings, and for persons of all ages and backgrounds. Activities requiring ARP funding include but are not limited to providing: response planning and leadership; case intake and data analysis; vaccine distribution strategy; fulfillment of vaccination record requests; communication and media support; coordination and management of the complex logistics of testing and vaccination; and contracting and administrative support.

**Margaret Kelly** Digitally signed by Margaret Kelly  
Date: 2021.12.20 13:13:55 -06'00'  
Department Head Signature

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Date