



COVID-19 FLEXIBLE RESPONSE ACCOUNT

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND

Jan. 31, 2022

Minnesota Management and Budget
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As requested by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report cost less than \$1,000 to prepare, including staff time, printing and mailing expenses.

Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, Braille or audio recording.

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Executive Summary

- The COVID-19 Flexible Response Account was created to pay expenditures eligible under federal guidance for the state fiscal recovery federal fund. The fund was established on July 1, 2021 with a beginning balance of \$425 million.
- Money in the fund is appropriated to the Commissioner of Management and Budget to be disbursed or transferred to state agencies, as necessary.
- The Commissioner of Management and Budget may authorize expenditures of \$2.5 million or less. An expenditure request in excess of \$2.5 million must be submitted to the Legislative COVID-19 Response Commission for review and recommendation before it can be authorized.
- Funds in the COVID-19 Flexible Response Account may be allocated until June 30, 2022, pursuant to [Laws 2021 1st Special Session, Chapter 12](#). Allocated funds are available until June 30, 2023. Any money in the fund that remains unallocated on July 1, 2022 cancels back to the state fiscal recovery federal fund.
- As of Jan. 31, 2022, \$3.5 million remains unauthorized in the fund. Legislative COVID-19 Response Commission authorizations total \$389.8 million. Additionally, \$31.8 million has been authorized as an expenditure of \$2.5 million or less.

Background

On June 30, 2021, the Legislature passed legislation creating the COVID-19 Flexible Response Account and appropriating \$425 million to the Commissioner of Management and Budget to be disbursed or transferred to state agencies, as necessary. The legislation also reestablished the Legislative COVID-19 Response Commission to review expenditures.

Members of the commission are the Senate majority and minority leaders, president, chair and ranking minority member of the Senate Finance Committee, House majority and minority leaders, speaker, and chair and ranking minority member of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Expenditure requests in excess of \$2.5 million must be submitted to the Legislative COVID-19 Response Commission for review and recommendation before they can be authorized. The commission has three days after submission to review a request and provide a positive recommendation, a negative recommendation, or no recommendation. If a majority of commission members from the Senate and a majority of commission members from the House of Representatives provide a negative recommendation on a proposed expenditure, the commissioner is prohibited from expending the money. If a majority of the commission members from the Senate or a majority of the commission members from the House of Representatives do not make a negative recommendation, or if the commission makes no recommendation, the commissioner may expend the money. The Commissioner of Management and Budget may authorize expenditures of \$2.5 million or less.

The Commissioner of Management and Budget must provide expenditure reports from the COVID-19 Flexible Response Account to the Legislative COVID-19 Response Commission on the last day of each month. The report must include the total amount of each expenditure, the purpose of each expenditure, and any additional information the Commissioner of Management and Budget determines is necessary to properly document each expenditure. This report includes accounting data through Jan. 31, 2022. Expenditures and commitments in SWIFT may lag the actual costs incurred due to delays in invoicing and payment processes with vendors.

Funds in the COVID-19 Flexible Response Account may be allocated until June 30, 2022, pursuant to [Laws 2021 1st Special Session, Chapter 12](#). Allocated funds are available until June 30, 2023. Any money in the fund that remains unallocated on July 1, 2022 cancels back to the state fiscal recovery federal fund.

Authorized Expenditures

Below is a summary of total authorized expenditures from the COVID-19 Flexible Response Account through Jan. 31, 2022. Table 1 highlights authorized expenditures in excess of \$2.5 million. Table 2 highlights authorized expenditures of \$2.5 million or less.

Table 1. Authorized Expenditures Over \$2.5 Million

(\$ in thousands)

Request #	Date	Agency	Description	Authorized	Expended
LCRC-1	8/4/2021	DPS	Violence Prevention Grants	\$ 16,800	\$ 62
LCRC-2	8/6/2021	MDH	Vaccine Incentives	\$ 13,800	\$ 6,602
LCRC-3	9/3/2021	Zoo	Continued Operations	\$ 11,495	-
LCRC-4	9/3/2021	DEED	Science Museum Operations	\$ 3,798	\$ 3,798
LCRC-5	9/3/2021	ADM	State Parking Facilities	\$ 3,000	\$ 669
LCRC-6	9/3/2021	ADM	Enterprise Planning	\$ 4,000	\$ 39
LCRC-7	9/3/2021	ADM	Workers Compensation	\$ 3,175	-
LCRC-8	9/3/2021	OHE	Workforce Stabilization	\$ 33,500	\$ 5,148
LCRC-9	9/3/2021	MDE	Education Partnerships	\$ 4,000	\$ 145
LCRC-10	9/3/2021	MDE	Pandemic Enrollment Aid	\$ 29,191	-
LCRC-11	9/3/2021	DHS	Sheltering I	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,483
LCRC-12	9/28/2021	MJB	Courts Backlog	\$ 9,961	\$ 1,895
LCRC-13	9/28/2021	BPD	Public Defense Backlog	\$ 3,945	-

Request #	Date	Agency	Description	Authorized	Expended
LCRC-14	9/28/2021	DHS	Sheltering II	\$ 15,000	-
LCRC-15	10/18/2021	MDH	Child & Youth Vaccine Incentives	\$ 12,200	\$ 30
LCRC-16	10/22/2021	MHFA	Emergency Rental Assistance Admin	\$ 7,000	-
LCRC-17	11/16/2021	AGO	COVID-19 Residual Work	\$ 3,571	-
LCRC-18	11/16/2021	MHFA	Exhausted Benefits	\$ 20,000	-
LCRC-19	11/23/2021	DHS	Emergency Nursing Facility Grants	\$ 50,000	\$ 49,830
LCRC-20	12/14/2021	DHS	Transition Children in Crisis	\$ 2,860	-
LCRC-21	12/14/2021	OHE	Nursing Assistant Initiative	\$ 3,425	\$ 2,135
LCRC-22	12/28/2021	MDH	Rapid At Home Testing Program, II	\$ 2,510	-
LCRC-23	12/28/2021	MDH	COVID Response Staffing	\$ 4,500	\$ 623
LCRC-24	12/28/2021	DHS	Food Support Grants	\$ 14,000	-
LCRC-25	12/28/2021	MDA	Expanded Meal Access	\$ 3,000	-
LCRC-26	12/28/2021	MDA	Hunger Relief	\$ 3,000	-
LCRC-27	12/28/2021	DHS	Child Care Stabilization	\$ 20,000	-
LCRC-28	1/15/2022	MDH	Rapid At Home Testing Program, III	\$ 40,000	-
LCRC-29	1/15/2022	MDH	Emergency Temp. Staffing Hospitals	\$ 40,000	-
LCRC-30	1/15/2022	MDH	Emergency Temp. Staffing LTC Fac.	\$ 5,000	-

Table 2. Authorized Expenditures of \$2.5 Million or Less*(\$ in thousands)*

Request #	Date	Agency	Description	Authorized	Expended
MMB-1	7/30/2021	MDH	Vaccine Incentives	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
MMB-2	8/30/2021	DNR	Timber Permit Relief	\$ 1,000	\$ 343
MMB-3	8/30/2021	ADM	Small Business Development	\$ 960	\$ 12
MMB-4	8/30/2021	MDE	Girl Scouts ConnectZ	\$ 1,000	-
MMB-5	9/10/2021	MMB	State Employee Testing	\$ 1,500	\$ 632
MMB-6	9/17/2021	MMB	COVID-19 Response Accountability	\$ 2,016	\$ 267
MMB-7	9/17/2021	GOV	COVID-19 Response Staffing	\$ 900	\$ 169
MMB-8	10/13/2021	MNsure	ARPA Systems Implementation	\$ 1,969	-
MMB-9	10/18/2021	MDE	Early Learning	\$ 1,500	\$ 7
MMB-10	10/18/2021	MDE	Expanded Life Skills	\$ 1,000	-
MMB-11	10/27/2021	MDH	Emergency Staff Hospital Decompression	\$2,490	\$ 3
MMB-12	11/10/2021	MDHR	Enhanced COVID-19 Response	\$ 500	7
MMB-13	11/22/2021	OHE	Workforce Stabilization Grants Admin	\$ 1,500	\$ 20
MMB-14	11/24/2021	DMA	Emergency Training Costs	\$ 1,675	\$ 86
MMB-15	12/8/2021	MDH	Rapid At Home Testing Program, I	\$ 2,490	-
MMB-16	12/23/2021	MDH	COVID Antiviral Distribution	\$ 400	-

Request #	Date	Agency	Description	Authorized	Expended
MMB-17	12/23/2021	MDH	Crisis Care Coordination Center	\$ 1,280	-
MMB-18	12/23/2021	MDVA	Homeless Veteran Service Navigator Prog.	\$ 200	-
MMB-19	12/23/2021	ADM	Workers' Compensation Costs, II	\$ 750	-
MMB-20	12/23/2021	MMB	Increased Capacity for Ent. Leadership	\$ 544	-
MMB-21	12/23/2021	MMB	Single Audit	\$ 75	-
MMB-22	12/23/2021	Met C.	Study COVID Using Wastewater Data	\$ 600	-
MMB-23	1/26/2022	DOC	Staff Overtime Bonus Pay	\$ 1,100	-
MMB-24	1/26/2022	MDE	Staff Support Package	\$ 754	-
MMB-25	1/26/2022	DLI	Frontline Worker Pay IT Solution	\$ 100	-

Appendix A: COVID-19 Flexible Response Account Detail

COVID-19 Flexible Response Account Overview, July 1, 2021 to Jan. 31, 2022

(\$ in thousands)

Initial Fund Balance	Authorized	Remaining Unauthorized	Expended	Committed	Uncommitted
\$ 425,000	\$ 421,534	\$ 3,466	\$ 76,505	\$ 85,658	\$ 259,371

COVID-19 Flexible Response Account Detail

(\$ in thousands)

Request #	Agency	Description	Authorized	Expended	Committed
LCRC-1	DPS	Violence Prevention Grants	\$ 16,800	\$ 62	\$ 2,500
LCRC-2	MDH	Vaccine Incentives	\$ 13,800	\$ 6,602	\$ 4,277
LCRC-3	Zoo	Continued Operations	\$ 11,495	-	-
LCRC-4	DEED	Science Museum	\$ 3,798	\$ 3,798	-
LCRC-5	Admin	State Parking Facilities	\$ 3,000	\$ 669	\$ 909
LCRC-6	Admin	Enterprise Planning	\$ 4,000	\$ 39	\$ 842
LCRC-7	Admin	Workers Compensation	\$ 3,175	-	-
LCRC-8	OHE	Workforce Stabilization	\$ 33,500	\$ 5,148	-
LCRC-9	MDE	Education Partnerships	\$ 4,000	\$ 145	\$ 1,831
LCRC-10	MDE	Pandemic Enrollment	\$ 29,191	-	-
LCRC-11	DHS	Sheltering I	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,483	\$ 8,517

Request #	Agency	Description	Authorized	Expended	Committed
LCRC-12	MJB	Courts Backlog	\$ 9,961	\$ 1,895	\$ 39
LCRC-13	BPD	Public Defense Backlog	\$ 3,945	-	-
LCRC-14	DHS	Sheltering II	\$ 15,000	-	-
LCRC-15	MDH	Child & Youth Vaccine Incentives	\$12,200	\$ 30	\$ 1,511
LCRC-16	MHFA	Emergency Rental Assistance Admin	\$ 7,000	-	-
LCRC-17	AGO	COVID-19 Residual Work	\$ 3,571	-	-
LCRC-18	MHFA	Exhausted Benefits	\$ 20,000	-	-
LCRC-19	DHS	Emergency Nursing Facility Grants	\$ 50,000	\$ 49,830	-
LCRC-20	DHS	Transition Children in Crisis	\$ 2,860	-	-
LCRC-21	OHE	Nursing Assistant Initiative	\$ 3,425	\$ 2,135	\$ 1,060
LCRC-22	MDH	Rapid At Home Testing Program, II	\$ 2,510	-	\$ 2,510
LCRC-23	MDH	COVID Response Staffing	\$ 4,500	\$ 623	-
LCRC-24	DHS	Food Support Grants	\$ 14,000	-	-
LCRC-25	MDA	Expanded Meal Access	\$ 3,000	-	-
LCRC-26	MDA	Hunger Relief	\$ 3,000	-	-
LCRC-27	DHS	Child Care Stabilization	\$ 20,000	-	-
LCRC-28	MDH	Rapid At Home Testing Program, III	\$ 40,000	-	\$ 13,709

Request #	Agency	Description	Authorized	Expended	Committed
LCRC-29	MDH	Emergency Temp. Staffing Hospitals	\$ 40,000	-	\$ 40,000
LCRC-30	MDH	Emergency Temp. Staffing LTC Fac.	\$ 5,000	-	-
MMB-1	MDH	Vaccine Incentives	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	-
MMB-2	DNR	Timber Permit Relief	\$ 1,000	\$ 343	-
MMB-3	ADM	Small Business Development	\$ 960	\$ 12	-
MMB-4	MDE	Girl Scouts ConnectZ	\$ 1,000	-	-
MMB-5	MMB	State Employee Testing	\$ 1,500	\$ 632	\$ 719
MMB-6	MMB	COVID-19 Response Accountability	\$ 2,016	\$ 267	\$ 31
MMB-7	GOV	COVID-19 Response Staffing	\$ 900	\$ 169	-
MMB-8	MNsure	ARPA Systems Implementation	\$ 1,969	-	\$ 183
MMB-9	MDE	Early Learning	\$ 1,500	\$ 7	\$ 656
MMB-10	MDE	Expanded Life Skills	\$ 1,000	-	-
MMB-11	MDH	Emergency Staff – Hospital Decompression	\$2,490	\$ 3	\$ 2,447
MMB-12	MDHR	Enhanced COVID-19 Response	\$ 500	\$ 7	-
MMB-13	OHE	Workforce Stabilization Grants Admin	\$ 1,500	\$ 20	-
MMB-14	DMA	Emergency Training Costs	\$ 1,675	\$ 86	\$ 1,426
MMB-15	MDH	Rapid At Home Testing Program, I	\$ 2,490	-	\$ 2,490

Request #	Agency	Description	Authorized	Expended	Committed
MMB-16	MDH	COVID Antiviral Distribution	\$ 400	-	-
MMB-17	MDH	Crisis Care Coordination Center	\$ 1,280	-	-
MMB-18	MDVA	Homeless Veteran Service Navigator Prog.	\$ 200	-	-
MMB-19	ADM	Workers' Compensation Costs, II	\$ 750	-	-
MMB-20	MMB	Increased Capacity for Ent. Leadership	\$ 544	-	-
MMB-21	MMB	Single Audit	\$ 75	-	-
MMB-22	Met C.	Study COVID Using Wastewater Data	\$ 600	-	-
MMB-23	DOC	Staff Overtime Bonus Pay	\$ 1,100	-	-
MMB-24	MDE	Staff Support Package	\$ 754	-	-
MMB-25	DLI	Frontline Worker Pay IT Solution	\$ 100	-	-

Appendix B: Request Forms

- LCRC-28 MDH Rapid At Home Testing III
- LCRC-29 MDH Emergency Temp. Staffing Hospitals
- LCRC-30 MDH Emergency Temp. Staffing LTC Facilities
- MMB-23 DOC Staff Overtime Bonus Pay
- MMB-24 MDE Staff Support Package
- MMB-25 DLI Frontline Worker Pay Program IT Solution

**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: Margaret Kelly, Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health

Title of Request: Expanded Community-based Testing Strategies for Minnesotans

Date: 1/7/2022

Request Amount: \$ 40,000,000

Expenditure Time Period: 1/14/2022 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 is requesting \$40 million to continue its community-based testing strategies. Since June 2020, we have been offering barrier free testing throughout the state, including testing in response to outbreaks, enhanced testing in congregate settings such as long term care, group homes, residential facilities, homeless shelters, and corrections. This fall we expanded availability of testing at K12 schools and child care facilities. In addition MDH continues to offer access to no cost barrier free testing throughout the state at community based testing locations with both PCR and rapid antigen tests.

Testing remains a key tool to slow the spread of the virus. Up to 45% of cases are asymptomatic. People who develop symptoms are most contagious in the days prior to symptom onset. Given the current rates of community transmission, additional testing availability is critical to ensure barrier free and easy access in order to slow the spread of the disease.

Minnesota is just beginning to experience the rapid increase in cases due to the Omicron variant. During the first week in January 2022, MDH has reported more than 46,000 positive cases including more than 10,000 on a single day which was the highest number of cases reported on a single day during the pandemic at that point in time. Average positivity was 15.6% on January 7, 2022, also a pandemic record. It is critical that particularly in our most vulnerable settings including child care and congregate care we are able to retain our testing infrastructure and options that best meet the needs of Minnesotans. MDH is working closely with the federal government, health care systems, pharmacies and local public health to fill gaps in the existing testing infrastructure and ensure Minnesotans have access to COVID tests.

This funding will allow us to further expand and strengthen the state's testing program to include distribution of rapid over the counter and point of care tests for a variety of settings, including child care and congregate care. It will also allow us to distribute tests more broadly in the community to meet a variety of needs. Minnesota's testing program continues to prioritize those Minnesotans who are at greatest risk of severe illness but also ensures barrier free access to those Minnesotans needing access to testing. Funding will cover the costs of operating testing distribution sites, testing supplies, shipping and staffing costs.

Margaret Kelly

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Date: 2022.01.10 14:08:49 -06'00'

Department Head Signature

Date

Please complete this form in accordance with 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

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Department Head Signature

Date

**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

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Date: 2022.01.11 09:22:21 -06'00'

Department Head Signature

Date



**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: Department of Corrections, Connie Jones, Assistant Commissioner


Title of Request: Staff overtime bonus pay

Date: 1/25/2022 **Request Amount:** \$ 1,100,000

Expenditure Time Period: 2/1/2022 to 9/30/2022 (no later than 6/30/2023)

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

The DOC is currently facing unprecedented staffing shortages and anticipate continuing to face these shortages in light of the spread of COVID-19 and a national shortage of workers. Retaining current staff and attracting new staff benefits continuity of operations by providing a safe and secure environment for people who work, visit or reside within a correctional facility and assists in proper staffing of the facilities. As it stands today, Correctional Officer staff are averaging 1,253 8-hour shifts of overtime each pay period. A significant amount of these overtime shifts are being forced on junior staff, some multiple days per week. Therefore, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is requesting \$1.1 million to stem critical staffing shortages by providing bonus pay to staff to take on overtime shifts, with the goal of reducing the requirement to force junior staff and ultimately retain the new staff for the long-term.



Department Head Signature

1/26/22

Date

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: MDE

Title of Request: Education Staffing Support Package

Date: 1/21/2022 **Request Amount:** \$ 754,000

Expenditure Time Period: 2/1/2022 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)

School districts and charter schools are experiencing unprecedented staffing issues while trying to balance maintaining education and student support services with the health and safety of students and staff. There is a need for additional substitute teachers, full-time licensed teachers, paraprofessionals, and bus drivers across the state. This multi-prong approach seeks to support shortages in each of those areas.

Coupled with policy changes to bring more substitute teachers into the available pool, \$144,000 will provide the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) with resources to be able to facilitate increased applications in a timely manner. \$100,000 will fund additional staffing resources to receive, process, and approve applications within the 5-day window required in accompanying policy language, and \$44,000 will fund the system and technology changes necessary to allow for the temporary changes to licensure requirements also in the accompanying policy language. MMB would be able to release the funds for PELSB's use contingent upon the Legislature's approval of the short-call substitute teacher shortage pilot language.

Teacher exams and first teacher licenses can be cost prohibitive for newly graduated teachers. \$455,000 would fully fund the costs of the Minnesota Teacher Licensure Exam (MTLE) and First Professional Teacher License for all 700 of the Fall 2021 College of Education graduates. The MTLE cost for basic skills test and content test is estimated at \$500; the First Professional Teacher License is \$150.

Paraprofessionals play a critical role in supporting student learning. Supporting paraprofessionals is key to supporting students. The ParaPro Assessment measures paraprofessional skills and knowledge in reading, math, and writing, along with the ability to apply those skills to assist in classroom instruction. Staff who have ParaPro certification are often paid a higher wage and can also teach in Title I classrooms. At an approximate cost between \$55 and \$91 per exam depending on location, \$100,000 will provide the ParaPro Assessment to between 1,100 and 1,800 prospective and practicing paraprofessionals.

School bus drivers play the critical role of transporting students from home to school daily. Shortages lead to disrupted bus routes. \$55,000 would pay for the Commercial Driver's License exam fee and School Bus endorsement for 1,000 prospective school bus drivers at a cost of \$55 per individual.

Heather Mueller Digitally signed by Heather Mueller
Date: 2022.01.25 08:45:45 -06'00'

Department Head Signature

1/25/2022

Date



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: Department of Labor and Industry / Nicole Blissenbach

Title of Request: Frontline Worker Pay IT Solution Discovery

Date: 1/19/2022 Request Amount: \$ 100,000

Expenditure Time Period: 2/14/2022 to 4/11/2022 (no later than 6/30/2023)

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

This ARP SFRF request is for money to scope an IT solution that will be used for the frontline worker pay program when it is ultimately finalized by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor. Conducting the discovery for the IT system in advance will put the administration in the best position to quickly and efficiently distribute money to eligible frontline workers. The overall goal of the project is to scope out an easy-to-use solution that will collect applications from frontline workers, determine eligibility, configure a call center, distribute payments to eligible workers, and provide reporting functionality. This request is for phase one of the project, the scoping work. Phase 2 is the implementation phase and is dependent on final legislation. The administrative cost of phase 2, the implementation phase, is included in the supplemental budget request. The attached slides provide an overview of the goals, tasks, and outcomes of the scoping work and the expedited RFO timeline.

Nicole Blissenbach Digitally signed by Nicole Blissenbach Date: 2022.01.19 15:32:50 -06'00' Department Head Signature

1/19/2022 Date