

New Hampshire Coronavirus Tracker: GOFERR and Coronavirus Update- 4.23.20

1. GOFERR Update

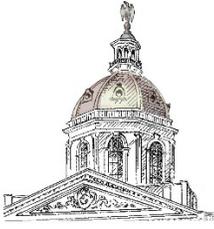
The newest New Hampshire cabinet office, the Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery ("GOFERR"), is charged with the investment and oversight of COVID19 relief and stimulus funds made available to the Granite State by the federal government.

Attached is a summary provided by Dave Collins, Association Retained Lobbyist, of recent meetings of GOFERR's advisory boards, held remotely, executive orders, and other coronavirus related activities.

2. Senator Maggie Hassan Virtual Meeting

Plans are underway for a member meeting with United States Senator Maggie Hassan to discuss the local economy, the role of credit unions, and the impact of the ongoing coronavirus emergency. Her schedule is fluid but a target date is the week of May 4. Further details are forthcoming.

The Association hopes that this information is helpful. Please send any questions or comments to govaff-reg@ccua.org.



New Hampshire's COVID-19 Response – Week Six Update

The advisory boards that comprise the Governor's Office For Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) met all week to gather input and information as the state faced another week of the coronavirus pandemic. Additionally, Governor Sununu announced the formation of the Economic Re-Opening Task Force which began meeting on Wednesday. The 20-member task force is made up of a mix of state officials, legislators, and business leaders. The state has received its \$1.25 billion allotment of funds from the federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security) Act. Guidance from the federal Treasury Department arrived late Wednesday, which will provide the state with information on how the funding can be distributed and spent.

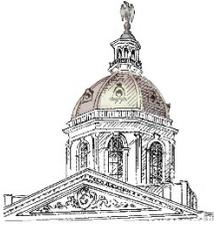
BUDGET IMPACTS: On Thursday, Governor Sununu announced he will be writing a letter to the legislature asking them to revoke the proposed business tax rate increases as agreed to in the biennial budget as the state fails to reach revenue targets. The Governor indicated there is an expected \$200 million shortfall by June and it is possible the deficit could grow by an additional \$250-\$500 million by June 2021. Last fall's budget compromise included a trigger mechanism which left the business taxes the same for 2020 but would have the tax rates increase or decrease in 2021 if state revenues came in either six percent higher or lower than revenue projections.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION: The Joint Fiscal Committee held a special session on Monday, April 20th, with the intent of hearing from the Legislative Budget Assistant on appropriate uses of CARES Act funding. Discussion was limited due to the lack of US Treasury guidance. The committee voted conditionally along party lines to require the Department of Health and Human Services to reverse the \$26 million in budget transfers made for emergency funding. The Governor has indicated those transfers were for cash flow purposes.

COURT ACTION: On Monday, the Hillsborough County Superior Court heard arguments on Democratic leadership's challenge of Governor Sununu's authority to distribute federal relief funding without legislative approval. On Wednesday, the court granted the Governor's motion to dismiss, ruling the legislative plaintiffs lacked standing.

GOFERR LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY BOARD: The board met in audio sessions Monday, Wednesday and Friday to hear from impacted sectors. Below are some of the key takeaways:

- The NH Hospital Association reported losses in the range of \$200 million per month with additional layoffs and furloughs anticipated.
- The New Hampshire Medical Society reported small medical practice groups have been the hardest hit.
- The Nursing Association cited low morale, concerns about PPE availability and concerns about pay being commensurate with risk.
- The NH Health Care Association said nursing homes are facing price gouging and workforce shortages, among other concerns.

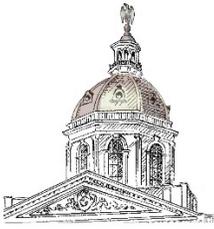


- The NH Lodging and Restaurant Association said recovery from the pandemic could take a year or more (restaurants) or as much as five to eight years (hotels). Losses were reported to total in the hundreds of millions of dollars.
- A consistent theme among presenters was that an unintended consequence of unemployment assistance for is that many workers are making more from unemployment and paycheck protection than their regular pay.
- The Business and Industry Association (BIA) and the NH Retail Association indicated that significant financial aid will be necessary for small businesses across all industries to survive.
- The BIA reiterated the importance of guidance to reopen the economy. As part of the plan, safety equipment and testing need to be highlighted as well as solutions around liability concerns.

GOFERR STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY BOARD: The board met in audio sessions on Tuesday and Thursday. The board created a list of questions to allow them to receive input more efficiently from all impacted businesses and sectors. They hope to have a website up by the end of the week to allow businesses to begin submitting comments.

The questions the committee will be asking businesses are:

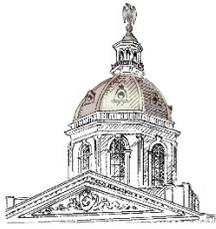
- (1) Please identify your position and your organization.
- (2) Please identify what economic sector your enterprise operates within.
- (3) Please describe how your enterprise and economic sector has been impacted by Covid19.
- (4) Please provide an assessment of how you project your organization and economic sector will be impacted over the next 12 months by Covid-19.
- (5) Please explain whether your enterprise or economic sector has or is receiving, or may possibly receive in the future, any other governmental support specifically intended to help address Covid-19 impacts.
- (6) Please provide comments on one or more ideas on how some portion of public relief funds could be provided to your enterprise and economic sector, and please comment on how these ideas would achieve the following important public goals:
 - a. The proposed use of funds will serve a public use and provide a public benefit.
 - b. The proposed use of funds will preserve or increase the social welfare or economic prosperity of the state, and will promote the general welfare of the state's citizens.
 - c. The proposed use of funds will promote the orderly development of economic and social activities, create or preserve employment opportunities, or protect the physical environment.
 - d. The proposed use of funds will contribute significantly to the continued operation, competitiveness and future success of the organization and the economic sector.
 - e. The proposed use of funds is not in conflict with local or regional development plans and policies.
 - f. The proposed use of funds is structured in a way that will help the community and the State at large, and not just the particular private business or organization.
 - g. The proposed use of funds is consistent with the one-time availability of the public relief funds and will not require future continuing operational support from the public sector in order to maintain success.
- (7) Please describe how the receipt and use of the public relief funds described in question 6 would be accounted for in your organization's financial statements.



- (8) Please describe specific measures for public reporting on the receipt and use of the public relief funds, so that the State may satisfy any public reporting obligations that may be imposed with respect to such funds.
- (9) Please identify other important organizations or functions in the State that have an important impact on your organization or economic sector, and, if possible, provide ideas of how those organizations and functions may be assisted by public relief funds in a manner that would help your organization or economic sector.
- (10) We consistently hear different stories of what is occurring and what is needed; given the opportunity, please comment on what do you think should be said or considered that hasn't received much attention?
- (11) What would your business or sector do with the funds that cannot be done now?

Members also began to examine all sources of potential funding beyond the \$1.25 billion allocated to the state. Below is a table of funding sources identified by GOFERR staff.

Type of Funding	Total Available (U.S.)	Available to NH
Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund	\$100,000,000,000	\$164,580,386 (1 st 30% of funds, with disbursements to the benefit of 1,445 health care providers in NH)
Community Development Block Grant	\$5,000,000,000	\$7,496,020
Housing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Solutions Grant 	\$4,000,000,000	\$3,700,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenant Based Rental Assistance (for public housing agencies) 	\$1,250,000,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOPWA 	\$65,000,000	\$404,880
Election Security Grants	\$400,000,000	\$3,262,422
Byrne-JAG State and Local Law Enforcement Grants	\$850,000,000	\$4,400,000
Child Care and Development Block Grant	\$3,500,000,000	\$6,947,671
Education Funding		\$82,534,000
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Funds (PHEP)	\$1,500,000,000	\$5,448,000
Federal Transit Administration Grants	\$25,000,000,000	\$37,891,454
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	\$900,000,000	\$5,541,000
National Endowment for the Arts	\$75,000,000	\$427,000
National Endowment for Humanities	\$75,000,000	\$423,000
Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorders	\$425,000,000	\$25,000,000
Payroll Protection Loan Program	\$350,000,000,000	\$2,006,858,477 (11,582 NH businesses)



ECONOMIC RE-OPENING TASK FORCE:

On Tuesday, Governor Sununu announced the formation of the Economic Re-Opening Task Force. Governor Sununu opened the meeting by setting a loose criteria that he is asking the task force to consider as part of their “uniquely New Hampshire” recommendations to re-open the economy. The basic concepts were included in the [road map](#) circulated that includes how the state’s plan should look considering:

1. Our region (both in terms of the Northeast and within New Hampshire);
2. Demographics;
3. Public health; and
4. Our workforce.

The group identified a list of stakeholder groups they want to hear from over the next two weeks and they have been tasked to provide guidance to the Governor by May 1st. On Thursday, the first presentation was from the NH Lodging and Restaurant Association. There was a wide-ranging discussion focusing on a four phase plan to re-open the industry with an emphasis on CDC guidelines. On Friday, the committee is set to hear from Arts and Event Venue industries.

ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY ORDERS ISSUED:

[Emergency Order #31](#) (Issued on 04/14/2020)

- Creates a program offering a \$300 per week stipend to healthcare workers at Medicaid funded Long Term Care Facilities.
- Facilities will be able to apply for the stipend on behalf of their employees.
- Full stipend must be passed along to healthcare workers.
- Program is initially funded through the end of June 2020.
- New Hampshire has applied to CMS for a waiver and additional funding to back fill these expenses.

[Emergency Order #32](#) (Issued 04/16/2020)

- Extends remote learning for public K-12 Schools through the end of the school year.

[Emergency Order #33](#) (Issued 04/17/2020)

- Activates the New Hampshire Crisis Standards of Care Plan.
- Creates resources and guidelines for healthcare facilities to manage the possibility of an overwhelming number of COVID-19 Hospitalizations.