



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee members
From: Daniel Dickerson, Fiscal Analyst *DWD*
Date: January 16, 2020
Subject: Grant Requests – JFO #2990-2992

Enclosed please find three (3) items, including one (1) limited-service position, which the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the Administration.

JFO #2990 – \$3,200,000 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to the VT Dept. of Health (VDH). This funding has been provided as part of the Vermont First Responder Emergency Opioid Response Project. One (1) limited-service position has been requested in conjunction with this grant. Funds will be used to provide first responders with improved and expanded access to overdose prevention training, equipment and medication. SAMSHA intends to provide funding at a rate of \$800,000 per year over a four-year grant period. Of the yearly funding, approximately a quarter would be used towards VDH staff time, including the cost of the new limited-service position. Approximately half of funding would be used for overdose response equipment, including Naloxone bottles and CPR rescue breath masks. The remainder would be used for contractors to provide training for first responders, as well as other supplies, some travel, and departmental indirect costs.
[JFO received 01/14/20]

JFO #2991 – \$53,768 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to the VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. This funding will be used to restore brook trout habitat in tributaries of the Connecticut River watershed. Actions taken to improve habitat would primarily consist of providing woody material along streams to increase pool frequency and depth, and to increase cover for brook trout and other fish. These grant funds will be used in conjunction with Department funds (in the form of staff time) as well as funding provided by Trout Unlimited (which will not flow through the State). The make-up of funds for this grant is approximately \$43,000 in federal dollars that the Foundation is providing as a sub-grant, and \$10,000 is directly from the Foundation. The project period will go through State FY2022.
[JFO received 01/14/20]

JFO #2992 – \$30,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC). This funding will be used to disseminate the findings of the recently completed Chittenden County earthquake hazard map and report. DEC will work with VT Emergency Management and the Northeast States Emergency Consortium on this initiative. DEC will communicate locations, infrastructure and buildings that are particularly

vulnerable. They will work to increase earthquake hazard awareness through the promotion of Shakeout, which is a worldwide initiative aimed at promoting earthquake drills. DEC will also update its website with earthquake-related materials. DEC would provide a \$10,000 match from its State FY2020 General Fund appropriation for a project total of \$50,000.

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Daniel Dickerson at (802) 828-2472; ddickerson@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like an item held for legislative review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by January 30, 2020 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of these requests.

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

The Department of Health has received a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration providing \$800,000/annually for 4 years to improve and expand the Vermont first responders (Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, and Fire Departments) access to overdose prevention training, equipment and medication to ensure they can respond safely and effectively and provide emergency treatment to known or suspected opioid overdose and other dangerous licit and illicit drugs in Vermont's rural communities. In addition to enhancing the vital work of first responders, the Vermont First Responder Emergency Opioid Response Project will increase the rate of referrals to treatment and recovery in Vermont rural communities with low access to naloxone and high burden of opioid injury and deaths. First responders play a critical role in the State of Vermont's work in addressing opioid crisis. This project will expand access to over 6,648 First Responders in 12 rural counties.

- Ensure rural first responder services (outside of the Chittenden and Grand Isle counties) that elect to carry naloxone have medication for responding to opioid overdoses.
- Ensure first responder agencies have access to trainings to manage opioid overdoses.
- Develop, implement or expand community education plans to improve awareness of opioid overdose harm reduction practices.
- Integrate the first response system and EMS providers as referral partners to assist patients who are revived by naloxone but are not transported to emergency departments for further treatment into the referral pathway for treatment and recovery.
- Work together to improve inter-departmental coordination in data-driven activities in addressing adverse opioid incidents including overdoses.

The budget for the grant award includes funding for a Public Health Specialist limited service position, who will work in the role of program manager.