CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR

Emergency Order #21 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04

Establishment of the COVID-19 Emergency Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Relief Fund

WHEREAS, the safety of the people of New Hampshire is an utmost priority; and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that, nationally, 1 in 4 women and nearly 1 in 10 men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime and reported some form of intimate partner violence-related impact; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization finds intimate partner violence and sexual violence is likely to increase during times of disaster and research shows pandemics may heighten the risk of physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, victims of domestic and sexual violence are at greater risk of violence, and face significantly increased barriers to accessing help when required to stay in their homes ; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire police departments have reported an uptick in domestic violence calls during the month of March; and

WHEREAS, domestic and sexual violence crisis centers provide 24-hour per day, free and confidential critical support and safety measures to some of New Hampshire's most vulnerable citizens; and

WHEREAS, emergency relief is necessary to ensure that victims of domestic and sexual violence are able to access critical services and protections in response to COVID-19.

Now therefore, pursuant to Section 18 of Executive order 2020-04, it is hereby ordered, effective immediately, that:

1. In order to ensure that organizations in the State of New Hampshire that serve victims of domestic and sexual violence have the ability, as needed, to continue providing critical, life-saving services, and to promote and secure the safety and protection of the people of New Hampshire, there is hereby established the COVID-19 Emergency Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Relief Fund (the "Fund"). The Department of Administrative Services shall create an accounting unit for the Fund within the Department of Safety.

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2. The Fund shall be authorized to disburse up to $600,000.

3. All decisions regarding applications for relief shall be approved by the Governor and no disbursements from the Fund shall be made without prior written approval of the Governor.

4. Relief from the Fund may be provided in the form of grants on such terms as approved by the Governor and the Attorney General.

5. Organizations that serve as domestic and sexual violence crisis centers shall be eligible to apply for relief funding for the following areas:

   a. Unrestricted funding for assisting directly with victims' needs
   b. Emergency shelter funding for hotel stays for victims
   c. Expenses for crisis center operations

6. As victims of domestic and sexual violence may require shelter outside of their home, the hospitality industry is encouraged to engage with local domestic and sexual violence crisis centers to establish alternative emergency housing solutions.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 1st day of April, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-four.

GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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