



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

September 17, 2020

Manchester School District  
SAU No. 37  
20 Hecker Street  
Manchester, NH 03101

Members of the Manchester School Board,

Thank you for your letter of September 1, 2020 regarding your concerns regarding school funding in Manchester. As you know, I have supported efforts to strengthen Manchester public schools and the city as a whole with additional funding since becoming governor.

To that end, I want to share with you a summary of financial resources the State of New Hampshire has provided Manchester over the past four years. We have made it a priority to ensure that the citizens of Manchester have the resources needed to address a wide range of issues and challenges.

Education:

- FY 2018-2019 Budget: \$1,700,000 in Safe School Infrastructure Grants and \$1,100,000 in additional kindergarten aid.
- In the spring of 2019, Manchester received IDEA and Preschool Special Education redistribution grants of approximately \$1,000,000.
- FY 2020-2021 Budgeted Adequacy Formula increases: Stabilization grants in the adequacy formula were funded at 100% of the original amount first cut in 2015, providing Manchester with an **additional \$1,992,711 in FY 2020 and \$2,490,888 in FY 2021.**
- Fully funded full-day kindergarten was included in the formula for the first ever in FY 2020, **providing Manchester with an estimated \$2,700,000 annually.** In addition, through the fiscal capacity aid, Manchester received \$7,495,623 in an Education Infrastructure Grants
- Tuition and transportation for Career and Technical Education was fully funded for the first time since 2010, **provided approximately \$150,000 per year more, for a total of \$900,000 to Manchester in FY 2020.**
- FY 2020-2021 **Budget: \$7,446,858 in additional ongoing educational support.**
- Both FY 2020 and FY 2021 budgets funded State Special Education Aid (formally known as Catastrophic Aid) at the highest funding levels in more than a decade. **This resulted in Manchester receiving \$1,790,000 in FY 2020, \$460,000 more than Manchester would have received under previous funding levels.** This increased level of funding continues into in FY 2021.
- In May of 2020, **Manchester received an education CARES act grant of \$6,700,000,** which equates to 20% of the \$33 million distributed to the entire State.

**Total new education funding: \$39,806,080**

Municipal Aid:

- **\$5,950,106 in new Municipal Infrastructure Grants in the FY2020-2021 budget**
- \$1,700,000 in Municipal Infrastructure Grants to improve city roads and bridges in the FY 2018-2019 budget
- \$13,671,797 in Transportation Aid (block grant and state paving program) in the FY2018-2019 budget.
- \$2,100,957 in 2020 for Municipal Highway Apportionment Block Grant
- \$8,647,200 in Aid for Red Listed Bridges owned by the City, including the Queen City Bridge and Goffs Falls Road Bridge.

**Total new Municipal Aid: \$32,070,060**

Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Support:

So far in FY 2020-2021, the state provided Manchester with following:

- **Provided \$1,948,000 in funds for a new vendor to operate the Manchester Doorway, with additional funds anticipated before the end of FY 2021.**
- Provided \$173,950 in COVID-related SAMSHA funding for the NH Rapid Response program to increase crisis response services through August 2021.
- Provided \$240,000 per year for 3 years from the Opioid to Action grant to help address the City's SUD and behavioral health issues.
- Provided \$750,000 for Maternal Opioid Misuse Program.

In the FY 2018-2019 budget, the state provided Manchester with following.

- **State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant funding totaling over \$4,000,000 for Manchester providers** including but not limited to, the Doorway, Mobile Crisis Response Team, residential treatment room and board payments, transitional living, and Medication Assisted treatment expansion.
- **Manchester providers were been allocated to receive \$2,888,843** in various SUD services from the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services, NH Department of Health and Human Services including Regional Public Health Network funding, Student Assistance Program, Treatment services.
- **Manchester providers were allocated to receive \$6,656,139** from the Governor Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs including Licensed substance use treatment professionals embedded in DCYF office, prevention direct services, Treatment including all levels of care Outpatient, Intensive Outpatient, Partial Hospitalization, Residential and Withdrawal Management and Medication Assisted Treatment and recovery supports funding.

**Total new SUD and Mental Health support: \$17,136,932**

Housing Supports: In the FY 20/2021 budget, the state provided Manchester with the following:

Specific for the City of Manchester:

- \$2,107,501 to support homeless shelter services.
- \$479,452 for Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS.
- **\$796,721 to provide quarantine services for individuals experiencing homelessness in Manchester, and outreach to homeless encampments in Manchester.**

The following are for the greater Manchester area, with providers who operate out of Manchester:

- **\$448,674 to support homeless prevention and rapid rehousing services through the annual Emergency Solutions Grant.**
- \$87,802 for Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) outreach.
- \$114,284 for security deposit and first month rent assistance.

In FY 2021, the following additional dollars were added to serve residents from the City of Manchester:

Manchester Only:

- **\$1,082,600 in Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act funds for emergency shelter services and operations**
- **\$81,795 in HOPWA CARES Act funding.**

Greater Manchester with providers who operate out of Manchester:

- **\$214,285 for eviction prevention**
- **\$500,000 in Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act funds for homeless prevention and rapid rehousing services.**
- **\$1,092,314 in Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act funds for street outreach.**

In 2017-2019 Manchester received \$5,749,156 from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services for housing supports.

**Total new Housing supports: \$9,516,871**

Law Enforcement/Fire Department Support from the CARES Act:

- \$78,041 to the Manchester Fire Department to provide two emergency medical technicians to assist in the prevention, preparation, and response of the spread of COVID-19 within Manchester homeless encampments.
- **\$360,027 to the Manchester Police Department for the overtime costs associated with 24-hour police patrols in the areas of the city with large homeless populations.**
- \$210,800 to the Manchester Fire Department for supplies and equipment, including portable signs, refurbishing two older shelters, the purchase of one new shelter with accessories, and traffic control barriers, for use at testing sites in the city.

**Total new Public Safety Aid: \$648,868**

These items over the past four years, when combined with the **\$74.5 million** to date in state and federal support that Manchester has received through CARES Act funding not listed here, represents almost **\$174 million in new funds** from the state that support city operations, the business community, non-profits, and the healthcare infrastructure.

It should be noted; that Manchester was allocated \$6,697,801 in ESSER Title I allocation. However, as of today, the city has only requested \$588,170 of that funding. As such, \$6,109,631 is available to the city but has not yet been budgeted though we understand the city may be in the process of doing so.

Moreover, it was also disappointing to learn that the Manchester Board of Alderman chose to use the **\$3.5 million** in infrastructure grant funding that was contained in the 2020-2021 budget for other non-academic purposes rather than using it to address impacts to Manchester's Schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In short, it is undeniable that over the past four years the State of New Hampshire has provided the city with unprecedented additional resources for schools and city services. There are more state and federal resources going into Manchester than at any other time in history.

Once again, we are supportive of efforts to provide Manchester schools with new opportunities and we will continue to make that a priority for every student in New Hampshire. We are always willing to work with anyone who shares the goal of better outcomes for our students.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor