



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

October 20, 2022

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ann Kuster
United States House of Representatives
320 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Pappas
United States House of Representatives
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of New Hampshire's Congressional Delegation,

Last month, we received correspondence from the United States Department of Treasury notifying the State that funding constraints and inflexibility from Congress are causing it to suspend technical support for state and local governments, including for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (please see attached).

Even more troubling just this week after waiting several months, we learned that without notice or explanation, additional Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funds for New Hampshire have been rejected while 28 other states around the country have been given the resources for their program to continue. Our state's residents were counting on a \$67 million reallocation of ERA 2 funding that we have just learned is not coming. If this decision stands, the federal government will be ending the ERA program early in New Hampshire by December 29, 2022 (perhaps earlier if they do not send additional requested reallocated ERA 1 funds).

With skyrocketing inflation, cold weather and the holiday season, this is the absolute worst time for the federal government to take this step.

I am deeply concerned that Treasury's abrupt elimination of support functions will only exacerbate its inability to respond to the State's needs in a timely manner under the ERA program and now others.

To that end, I ask that you work directly with Treasury and urge them to reconsider their decision to end the ERA program early in New Hampshire, while confirming New Hampshire's reallocation of our ERA 1 funding. Please stand up and right this wrong for our state.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor



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

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

October 18, 2022

Secretary Janet Yellen
United States Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen:

The State of New Hampshire has written to your Department on previous occasions with regard to the state's continued needs, specifically concerning its Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program. To that end, the state has not received a response to either of our requests for reallocation of ERA funds, hindering our ability to plan for the steps ahead.

As you know, many ERA programs across the country are either already closed or in need of funding, and we are now approaching a point where we must determine how New Hampshire will have to accommodate citizens who will no longer receive this federal assistance. As a result, many will likely face hardship. In order to properly and adequately plan for this, we need your response to our requests, listed below.

- July 22, 2022, request for \$66,979,329 in reallocated ERA 2 funds
- September 26, 2022, request for \$38,000,000 in reallocated ERA 1 funds

Nearly a month after our ERA 1 request, we heard more information is coming "soon," despite the fact that the timeline to use any of those awarded funds is now very short because of the December 29, 2022, deadline. Treasury recently indicated that it is finalizing ERA 2 reallocations and notices "in the next few days," which is marginally better than "soon" but less critical than the needed reply to our ERA 1 request.

It is clear that Treasury is experiencing its own customer service challenges. We have received multiple notifications from the Department indicating that it will no longer provide assistance, support, or even answer the phone to support their own federal programs (ERA, SFRF, SSBCI, CPF, and HAF just to name a few). Yet meanwhile we still need to continue to provide whatever assistance we can here on the state level for recipients of funding under these and other programs.

I cannot emphasize enough that we must hear from Treasury soon. While support from the Treasury is now ending for several critical programs, New Hampshire residents crushed by inflation still need assistance, and a response from the Department will enable us to continue to plan and implement strategies for the future of New Hampshire's ERA program.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor