



# SULLIVAN COUNTY DELEGATION



*Representing the communities of:*

Acworth, Charlestown, Claremont, Cornish, Croydon, Goshen, Grantham, Langdon,  
Lempster, Newport, Plainfield, Springfield, Sunapee, Unity and Washington

June 29, 2020

The Honorable Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor of New Hampshire  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu,

We write as members of the Sullivan County Delegation to ask for assistance and support to access funds within the \$50 million “flex funds” of the CARES Act funds and \$6 million in funds for mental health for two critical needs here in Sullivan County.

This money would be divided into two projects. First ask is to support the expansion of the county’s Department of Corrections who pioneered a ground-breaking substance use treatment program a decade ago called Transitional Re-entry And Inmate Life Skills, or TRAILS. TRAILS has been copied by nearly every county in the Granite State and has slashed recidivism rates to around the 16%-20% range—far below state and national averages.

Although the TRAILS program has delivered phenomenal results, there remains a missing component that we are working to address and could use your help. Sullivan County currently lacks a transitional or recovery housing facility to provide a safe, affordable living environment for individuals, so they do not have to travel the path of sobriety alone.

We have a project underway to renovate a property the county recently purchased. The project team is finalizing the design and construction will begin in August or September. It is the very definition of a shovel-ready project and the timeline is such that we will absolutely be able to expend CARES Act funding prior to the December deadline. The county’s staff will be eagerly anticipating more information through the Department of Health and Human Services to find out how to apply for additional funding available in the \$6 million set aside for mental health.

The other ask is for funds to increase connectivity within Sullivan County. Many of the 14 rural communities in Sullivan County lack access to essential, adequate broadband internet service. Initial conversations with broadband vendors indicate concerns with supply chains that will jeopardize their ability to procure necessary equipment in time to deliver results in compliance with the grant’s contractual requirements. In short, there simply is not enough time to get this done by December 15, 2020.

This pandemic has demonstrated that New Hampshire’s Granite State citizens can participate in new learning methods and healthcare when they have access to adequate broadband internet. We feel strongly that the CARES Act funding should be extended to make this



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happen and are interested in working with you and New Hampshire's Congressional Delegation to explore this possibility.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you need our help to engage with Washington to extend the CARES Act deadline so we can connect our underserved rural communities with broadband capability.

Sincerely,

Sullivan County Delegation


Rep. Steven Smith, *Chair*    Rep. Skip Rollins, *Vice Chair*    Rep. Andrew O'Hearne, *Clerk*  
District 11                      District 6                      District 3

/S/ Brian Sullivan    /S/ Lee Oxenham                      /S/ Gary Merchant

Rep. Brian Sullivan    Rep. Lee Oxenham    Rep. Gates Lucas    Rep. Gary Merchant  
District 1                      District 1                      District 2                      District 4 Ward 2

/S/ Walter Stapleton        Judy Aron

Rep. Walter Stapleton    Rep. John Callum    Rep. Judy Aron    Rep. Tom Laware  
District 5 Ward 3    District 6    District 7    District 8

/S/ Linda Tanner                      John R. Cloutier                      

Rep. Linda Tanner                      Rep. John Cloutier

District 9                      District 10 Ward 1-3

/S/ Authorization was provided by e-mail