

State of Vermont
Department of Financial Regulation
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To: Vermont Joint Fiscal Committee
From: Michael Pieciak, Commissioner, Department of Financial Regulation
Re: CRF Request for Modeling and Consulting Contract
Date: July 24, 2020

Total Amount Requested: \$410,000. The Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) is seeking funding to contract with the consulting firm Oliver Wyman for modeling and consulting work related to Vermont’s COVID-19 response. The requested amount (\$410,000) will fund the modeling contract through December 2020.

Response to the Pandemic: Since March 2020, DFR has lead Vermont’s COVID-19 data and modeling efforts. In furtherance of Vermont’s efforts to actively and safely respond to the needs of the unfolding pandemic through modeling, DFR would like to formalize a relationship with Oliver Wyman to prepare for the Fall/Winter.

Oliver Wyman would develop Vermont-specific models to help forecast COVID-19 case growth for the remainder of 2020 which would inform decisions around: (1) re-opening K through 12 schools; (2) the return of out-of-state higher education students; (3) increased out-of-state tourism from Fall foliage and Winter ski season; (4) the return of cooler weather and more indoor activity; and, (5) hospital demand scenarios to help ensure that our hospitals are not overrun.

Oliver Wyman would also hold weekly briefings with Vermont officials to provide updates on: (1) best practices for continued economic reopening; (2) most recent advances on therapeutics, treatments, and vaccines across the globe; (3) most recent scientific understanding of non-therapeutic interventions such as masks; and (4) most recent scientific understanding of the disease generally, how it spreads, whether and how it is mutating and how it impacts individuals in the short and long term.

Urgency of Request: There is a critical need for funding to support modeling that cannot wait until the appropriations process. Much of the modeling and consulting work will impact decisions that will need to be made in August and September – especially regarding the re-opening of the K12 school system, the return of higher education students and travel policies around Fall tourism season. We would need to meet with Oliver Wyman over the next three to four weeks to establish reliable models that can help inform decisions in these areas.

