



## STATE OF VERMONT

### MEMORANDUM

To: The Joint Fiscal Committee  
From: Catherine Benham, Chief Fiscal Officer  
Date: September 16, 2021  
Subject: Request for a Limited-Service Position

The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) requests a limited-service position to begin in October 2021 and expire at the end of FY 2024. The position would allow JFO to better provide the analytical capacity required to assist the General Assembly's evaluation of proposed uses and investments of pandemic-related and other future federal funds.

The areas that the General Assembly has already identified as receiving significant amounts of pandemic-related federal funds include:

- climate change;
- broadband;
- housing;
- clean water; and
- health, well-being, and recovery of Vermonters; workforce development; and business support.

The influx of pandemic-related federal funds in each of these and other areas will require JFO to dedicate significant time to undertake thorough analysis. Current staff are already fully engaged and will not have enough time to adequately vet and evaluate budget proposal ideas in these areas. The limited-service position would enable JFO to better serve the General Assembly's needs while maintaining our high-quality standards.

For FY 2022, we anticipate that the cost of the limited service position will be approximately \$65,000, and we will address this cost in the budget adjustment and through carryforward. We expect to build the full annual cost into the FY 2023 budget.

*Proposed Motion:* Move to establish a limited-service position in the Joint Fiscal Office to support the General Assembly in its appropriation of unallocated ARPA funds to address the effects of and needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic in Vermont.