



Nicholas A. Toumpas
Commissioner

Marcella Jordan Bobinsky
Acting Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

29 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301-6503
603-271-4612 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4612
Fax: 603-271-4827 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964



August 13, 2015

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to pay the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), 2231 Crystal Ave., Suite 450, Arlington, VA 22202, (Vendor #168523), \$18,800.00 for the annual membership dues, **retroactive** to July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. 70% Federal Funds and 30% General Funds.

Funds are anticipated to be available in the following account for the SFY 2016 upon the availability and continued appropriation of funds in the future operating budget.

05-95-90-900010-51100000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVS, HHS: DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Fiscal Year	Class/Object	Class Title	Job Number	Total Amount
SFY 2016	026/500251	Organizational Dues	90072000	\$18,800.00
			Total	\$18,800.00

EXPLANATION

This request is **retroactive** as the original invoice requested payment for the entire year and the revised invoice needed to be issued, which resulted in a delayed request. Due to the Continuing Resolution we do not have the available funds to pay the entire annual dues. ASTHO has provided an invoice that is for one-half, or \$9,400.00 of the ASTHO annual dues through December 31, 2015. At this time we request approval to pay the first half of the annual dues. Upon approval of the final SFY2016 budget, the second half, or \$9,400.00 will be processed.

Funds are requested to pay annual membership dues with ASTHO. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials is the national nonprofit organization representing the state public health agencies. Association of State and Territorial Health Officials has a dual mission: to assist state health departments in the development and implementation of programs and policies to promote health and prevent disease, and to serve as a conduit for the state discussions and policy development with federal partners.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?
 - Association of State and Territorial Health Officials was incorporated on March 23, 1942 and the Department of Health and Human Services has been associated with this organization since March 1942.
2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?
 - No
3. How many other state's belonging to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?
 - All 50 States, 6 U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. Yes, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services is the only state agency that is a member of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.
4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc)
 - Association of State and Territorial Health Officials membership dues are population based; there has been no price increase in membership due this year.
5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?
 - Association of State and Territorial Health Officials provides staff to advocate in Washington, DC for national issues of public health significance. For small states such as New Hampshire that do not have a Washington, DC office, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials legislative staff provide timely briefings to state health officials on congressional activities, and non-partisan advocacy on public health issues such as funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, Immunization, maternal and child health as well as chronic diseases. Given that more than half of the public health operating budget comes from federal sources, the Department's participation with Association of State and Territorial Health Officials is vital to maintain our ability to continue to receive Federal grants and funding for these programs.
 - Association of State and Territorial Health Officials played a key role as a coordinating entity and an information clearinghouse regarding sequestration; thus enabling states to effectively understand and communicate the impacts to their administrations and elected officials.
 - Between 2009-2011 Association of State and Territorial Health Officials played a key role as direct interface between the states and the federal government for all H1N1 related activities. They developed a centralized information distribution system that was key to NH's success in responding to the pandemic and assessing lessons learned.

- During the last couple of years Association of State and Territorial Health Officials has played a key role in advocating for the inclusion of health promotion and disease prevention concepts and philosophy in the health care discussion at the national level. They have been instrumental in bringing to members of congress and the federal government consolidated information from the states regarding successful implementation of a population based approach and its positive impact on quality of health care delivery while controlling costs.
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials provides technical support and conveys the support from states across the nation.
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials provides technical support and helps NH apply for and obtain private foundation grants that are helping the agency in the development and implementation of its strategic priorities as stated by the NH Public Health Improvement Council.
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials provides resources and technical support to assist the Department in various operational aspects including consultation on financing, organization, and how best to use information technology to achieve programmatic goals at a reasonable cost.
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials provides resources to assist DHHS in responding rapidly to new and emerging issues of regional and national importance, such as H7N9 and the Coronavirus, which has the potential to become the new SARS epidemic. When these issues arise, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials provides coordination between various Federal agencies, and convenes State Health Departments to assure information sharing, streamlined communication, and a coordinated response.
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials serves as a clearinghouse for state public health agencies to confidentially share best practices with each other. Association of State and Territorial Health Officials also serves as a clearinghouse for public health information and statistics.
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials has served as the conduit for the development of a strong partnership between the regional Public Health directors; the group holds weekly conference calls and has regular discussions with the regional federal assignees.

6. Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.

- The Division of Public Health Services receives numerous educational and research materials from ASTHO and the cost is included in the membership. Federal grants are received by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials to provide the states with training that far exceeds any training that are provided for at the state level.

7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.

- No.

8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.

- Yes, the Association for State and Territorial Health Officials cover all costs for the Director of the Division of Public Health Services to attend all ASTHO Meetings during the year.

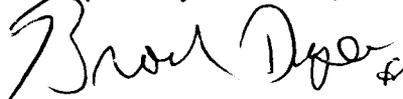
Should Governor and Executive Council not authorize this Request, all of the services provided by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, as detailed above, will not be available to the Department of Health and Human Services here in New Hampshire.

Area served: statewide.

Source of Funds: Source of Funds is 70% Federal Funds from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and 30% General Funds.

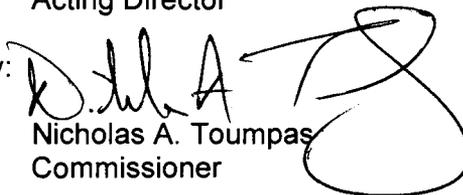
In the event that the Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcella Jordan Bobinsky, MPH
Acting Director

Approved by:



Nicholas A. Toumpas
Commissioner



Association Of State And Territorial Health Officials
2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 450 | Arlington, Virginia 22202
(202) 371-9090 | www.astho.org

1 June 2015

Marcella Jordan Bobinsky, MPH
Acting Director, Division of Public Health Service
New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Invoice 070115-NH

ASTHO Annual Dues for the period July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016-First Installment	\$9,400.00
--	-------------------

Invoice Total	\$9,400.00
----------------------	-------------------



Association Of State And Territorial Health Officials
2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 450 | Arlington, Virginia 22202
(202) 371-9090 | www.astho.org

June 30, 2015

Marcella Jordan Bobinsky
Acting Division, Division of Public Health Service
New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Mrs. Bobinsky:

Serving as president of ASTHO is a truly gratifying and rewarding experience. It affords me a unique perspective to learn from and appreciate the collective expertise of my colleagues around the country and to witness the positive influence of sound public health policy that we can generate as a group. ASTHO plays a critical role in organizing our efforts, sharing strategies among states, and assuring that the needs of state health agencies are presented to federal and national partners. One important way to ensure this ongoing progress and level of service is to support ASTHO through the remittance of your annual membership dues.

ASTHO provides each of us with valuable, timely, and accurate information, advice, and support on critically important public health concerns. ASTHO's efforts to represent the interests of state and territorial health agencies and the communities we serve have paid big dividends. In the last year alone this has been demonstrated in multiple ways. ASTHO has provided timely and relevant information on new infectious disease outbreaks such as Ebola and MERS-CoV; delivered technical assistance in important areas such as accreditation, quality improvement, and business processes; led a 16-state quality improvement collaborative that has resulted in measurable increases in hypertension identification and control; provided opportunities to link public health and healthcare through the ASTHO Supported Primary Care and Public Health Collaborative, which draws on the expertise of current members and alumni; engaged federal partners and multiple sectors in the ASTHO 2015 President's Challenge to promote the health of older adults by collaborating across sectors; facilitated the Congressional Briefing on Healthy Aging and the Health and Human Services Healthy Aging Summit, with a focus on state health agencies' role; and worked to secure funding for state public health agencies through the restoration of the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant.

Attached is a document that briefly outlines various services that ASTHO provides to you and your agency staff. Many of these valuable services are only available because of the unrestricted funding provided through membership dues. I sincerely hope that you give this request your prompt attention and demonstrate your support for ASTHO by remitting the enclosed invoice. Please feel free to contact me or Paul Jarris with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jewel Mullen, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
ASTHO President
Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Public Health

Benefits of Membership



Leadership Development for State Health Officials

ASTHO provides educational, training, and leadership development opportunities designed specifically for state and territorial health agency leaders. ASTHO's State Health Leadership Initiative (SHLI) aims to accelerate the leadership development of new state and territorial health officials as policymakers, administrators, and advocates for the health of the public. SHLI includes a site visit from an ASTHO executive, a two-day public policy training in Washington, a one-week case study-based public health leadership program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, a mentoring program, mini-grants for strategic planning, and a professional development fund for each state and territorial health official. Additionally, ASTHO and CDC jointly sponsor an orientation and public health training for new state health officials. ASTHO draws on the expertise of current state health officials, ASTHO alumni, and nationally recognized subject matter experts to conduct training.

Estimated value for State Health Leadership Institute:

	Estimated Direct Cost Value (excludes ASTHO staff-time)
Executive Site Visit and Follow-up	\$1,500
Leadership in Government Meeting	\$1,500
Leadership for New Health Officials (Harvard JFKS)	\$15,500
Winter Strategy Meeting for Health Officials	\$1,500
Mentoring Program	\$1,500
Customized Professional Development Fund	\$5,000
Strategic Planning Grant*	\$10,000
CDC Orientation for New Health Officials	\$1,500
Total	\$27,500-37,500

*Strategic planning grants are not universally available. ASTHO offers at least two per year.

Support for the State Health Official's Leadership Team

ASTHO supports the development of lead staff at state and territorial agencies through services that include in-person and virtual events, listserves, secure online discussion boards, peer-to-peer mentoring and coaching, and technical assistance. Health agency staff that are supported include:

- Senior Deputies
- State Legislative Liaisons
- Chief Fiscal Officers
- Directors of Public Health Preparedness
- Human Resources and Workforce Development Directors
- Informatics Directors
- Performance Improvement Directors
- Primary Care Officers
- State Environmental Health Directors
- State Tobacco Control Directors

Benefits of Membership



Up-to-Date Communication on State, Regional, and National Emerging Issues

ASTHO continuously conducts situational awareness of local, state, and national issues of concern and provides state health officials with timely updates. As issues are identified, ASTHO works with federal and national partners for accurate information. ASTHO communicates with members on hot topic issues through its State Public Health Weekly newsletter and bimonthly All S/THO Calls and regional calls. Recent examples of timely communication include presentations for members conducted by federal leaders on draft Ebola policies, providing members an opportunity to offer input, in addition to CDC reporting on infectious disease outbreaks, including MERS-CoV. Importantly, this quick communication provides an opportunity for state health officials to share their experiences, learnings, and recommendations with their colleagues about issues affecting their state.

Policy Support

ASTHO provides state health officials with valuable, timely, and accurate information, advice, and support on critically important state and federal public health policy matters. ASTHO supports state efforts to understand and implement federal laws, such as the Food Safety Modernization Act, Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, and Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act. The aim is to provide expert technical assistance on federal policy in a manner which maximizes health improvements for the population. ASTHO also works continuously with policymakers in Congress and the Administration to make sure that state public health voices are heard and remain an integral part of the federal, state, and-local governmental public health system.

Technical Assistance

ASTHO provides technical assistance to members, their leadership teams, and partners on issues of public health policy and practice. In addition to responding to requests from states, territories, and partners, ASTHO proactively assists members with reports, tools, site visits, journal publications, and funding for state and local collaboratives on broad ranging issues, such as accreditation, preparedness, and health reform. Technical assistance provision ranges from phone consultation and development of written reports, to comprehensive site visits by appropriate expert staff, members, or partners.

Sharing of Best Practices Among States and Territories

ASTHO identifies, collects, and shares best and promising public health practices from state and territorial health agencies. ASTHO continuously investigates and reports to members on emerging evidence based practices from the *Community Preventative Services Guide*, *Clinical Preventative Services Guide*, and numerous public health and health systems publications. ASTHO analyzes this information and shares it with states and territories via different modes (e-newsletters, publications, in person meetings, virtual events, etc.). This continuous focus on best and promising practices is used in all aspects of ASTHO's work, with priorities on supporting states in their missions to achieve better health outcomes.