

YOR



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GEORGE N. COPADIS, COMMISSIONER

RICHARD J. LAVERS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

June 10, 2021

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

For inclusion on the Governor and Council Consent Calendar, pursuant to MOP 1200, I. D., authorize New Hampshire Employment Security (NHES) to pay the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (VC# 170326), Washington, DC, the amount of \$22,000 for Fiscal Year 2022 membership dues effective upon Governor and Council approval for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. 100% Federal Funds.

Federal funds are anticipated to be available in SFY 2022, contingent upon the availability and continued appropriation of funds in future operating budgets:

02-027-027-270010-80400000	DEPT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY	<u>SFY 2022</u>
026-500251	Membership Dues	\$22,000

**EXPLANATION**

NHES is seeking continued membership in National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA). NASWA is the member organization for State Workforce Administrators across the United States, representing all 50 state workforce agencies, D.C. and US territories. NASWA has proven to be an invaluable resource throughout the pandemic providing a resource to states as well as a forum to share ideas and solutions. Its mission is to enhance state workforce agencies' ability to accomplish their goals, statutory roles and responsibilities by providing policy expertise, sharing promising state practices and promoting state innovation and leadership in workforce development.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Executive 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?

The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) was founded during the Great Depression in the early years of the unemployment insurance and employment service programs. NHES has been a member since at least 1996.

2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?

No.

3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?

All 50 states plus Washington, DC and US territories. NHES is the sole NH state agency to be a member of NASWA.

4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on state population, based on other criteria, etc.)

NASWA uses a three tier structure for dues which is based on the level of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Unemployment Insurance (UI) funding received by each state. NH is considered a small state with the lowest tier dues. Any proposal to change the annual membership dues must be reviewed and voted upon by full membership.

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?

NASWA provides a forum for states to exchange information and ideas about how to improve program operations, serves as a liaison between state workforce agencies and federal government agencies, Congress, business, labor, and intergovernmental groups, and is the collective voice of state agencies on workforce policies and issues. NASWA provides policy expertise, shares promising state practices, and promotes state innovation and leadership in workforce development.

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

Yes, training and educational/research materials are included in the membership. NASWA provides its members with on-going information and updates on all topics impacting state workforce agencies.

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

- Participation in the Unemployment Insurance Interstate Connection Network (ICON) requires NASWA membership. UI ICON is the system that allows state UI agencies to request and receive data for use in filing/processing of combined wage claims, military and federal claims. The system provides for the exchange of data between state workforce agencies as well as federal partners.
- Participation in the Unemployment Insurance State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES) requires NASWA membership. SIDES is a web-based system that allows electronic transmission of information regarding UI claims between UI agencies and employers.
- Participation in the Unemployment Insurance Integrity Center requires NASWA membership. The UI Integrity Center is a joint federal-state initiative funded by the US Department of Labor designed to assist states in their efforts to improve integrity in the unemployment insurance program by serving as a resource for integrity strategies, information, focusing particularly on the prevention, detection, and recovery of improper payments, fraud, and delinquent employer contributions.
- Participation in the Integrity Data Hub requires NASWA membership. NHES currently participates in the Suspicious Actor Repository (SAR) component of the Integrity Data Hub (IDH). IDH provides assistance to SWAs in preventing and detecting fraud and streamlines integrity improvement efforts.
- Participation in the Unemployment Insurance Information Technology Support Center (ITSC) requires NASWA membership. ITSC provides information, software tools and products, and advisory services to states in support of information technology systems for the Unemployment Insurance program.

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.

No, travel is not included in the membership fees. The Board of Directors may include in the annual fiscal budget an amount of money to assist states and territories with travel-related expenses associated with various conferences/seminars conducted throughout the year.

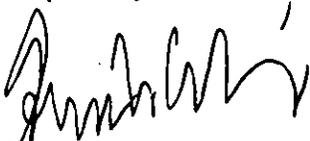
9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.)

All NHES employees can be members and access information under the membership fee. NHES' Unemployment Compensation Bureau (UCB) Director is currently the chair of the SIDES Operations Committee. The SIDES Operations Committee provides information and advisory services to the NASWA SIDES Team and the SIDES Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) in support of the SIDES system and its role in maintaining the integrity of the UI program as well as improvements to SIDES operations. The UCB Director is also a member of the UI Committee which is comprised of State UI Directors or their designees. The UI Committee strives for consensus on issues and communicates policy proposals and concerns to the NASWA Board of Directors and the U.S. Department of Labor. The mission of the UI Committee is to provide state's input on UI policies, performance requirements, administrative funding, and ways to strengthen the state-federal UI system.

10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization. NHES would lose access to the following if it were to discontinue its membership with NASWA:

- Various committee involvement and information,
- Insight to federal legislative proposals impacting the workforce system,
- Answers to specific workforce program questions,
- On-line member information and workforce successful practices,
- The weekly Bulletin highlighting federal and state news,
- The NewsWire giving workforce updates,
- Job listings through the America's Job Link Alliance (AJLA),
- Job listings through the National Labor Exchange (NLX),
- The Interstate Benefit Payment Plan allowing other states to take UI claims for NH,
- The Interstate Information Exchange Agreement allowing states to see employer and wage information for potential UI claims in other states through the UI ICON application called the Interstate Benefits Inquiry (IBIQ),
- The Interstate Reciprocal Overpayment Recovery Arrangement (IRORA) where other states can recover UI overpayments for NH from UI claimants no longer living in NH,
- State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES) information and updates,
- Integrity Data Hub access,
- The Center for Employment Security Education and Research (CESER) projects and research information, and
- The Information Technology Support Center (ITSC) projects and information.

Respectfully submitted,



George N. Copadis  
Commissioner