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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301-3857
603-271-9200 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 9200
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Lori A. Weaver
Interim Commissioner

July 14, 2023

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Commissioner, to make a **retroactive** payment for annual membership dues to the New England States Consortium Systems Organization, 333 South Street, Shrewsbury, MA, 01545-2732, Vendor # 162545, B001, in the amount of $28,500 for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, effective upon Governor and Council approval. 100% General Funds.

Funds are available in the following account:

05-95-95-950010-50000000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, HHS: COMMISSIONER, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

SFY	Appropriation	Class/Object	Class Title	Job Number	Amount
2024	010-095-50000000	026-500251	Organizational Dues	95062017	$28,500.00

EXPLANATION

This request is retroactive due to the invoice being received after the start of the membership period, and before funding was available for FY2024.

Founded in 1998 by the Secretaries and Commissioners of the New England State Health and Human Services (HHS) agencies and the University of Massachusetts Medical School, the New England States Consortium Systems Organization (NESCSO) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to strengthening and supporting the capacity of state government Health and Human Service agencies to effectively respond to the needs of the people they serve. The mission of the organization is to foster communication and collaboration among members through information sharing and joint projects. Its goal is to support the health and human services policy and system needs of the New England states by providing a framework for knowledge exchange in order to maximize policy, program and cost effectiveness. This is accomplished using state-to-state collaboration, investing in state HHS employees, providing them with education and training, connecting them with peers in other states, and promoting the effective use of technology. NESCSO is also the convener of the Medicaid Enterprise Systems (MES)

Community. Through year-round working groups and the yearly MES Conference, NESCSO supports states in understanding of Medicaid related information system offerings.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required by 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?

    a. The state of NH Department of Health and Human has been a member of NESCSO since its inception in 1998 (25 years).

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

    a. NESCSO is unique. It was created to help reduce the level of duplication of effort and to leverage purchasing power among the six New England states' Medicaid programs. Comparative groups from other states do not currently exist.

3) How many other state's belonging to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?

    a. NESCSO consists of all six New England States. NESCSO's purpose is to identify and address issues associated with the ongoing support and administration of Medicaid and other related programs within the New England region. The State of New Hampshire Medicaid program is administered by the NH Department of Health and Human Services; therefore the Department is the only New Hampshire State Agency that is a member.

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

    a. A standard fee for all states is agreed upon by each of the six New England states. Each of the states has committed $28,500 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 to support NESCSO. There was no increase in the dues from the prior year.

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

    a. Membership in NESCSO allows states to leverage Medicaid dollars by avoiding duplication of efforts by each of the states. Since new federal Medicaid requirements as well as ongoing program operational issues are often the same for every state, leveraging can offer savings of both staff time and state expenditures. NESCSO's purpose is to identify and address issues associated with the ongoing support and administration of the Medicaid and related programs within the New England region. Most of NESCSO's activities focus on shared projects, but NESCSO makes available resources that individual states may use to develop individual projects. Projects of the state-specific kind are funded through direct payment by the state.

    b. NESCSO fulfills three distinct needs of states: 1) a clearinghouse/library function that amasses information specifically relevant to the Health and Human Service agencies of

the New England States, such as copies of recent Advance Planning Documents and Requests for Proposals approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; 2) a staff collaboration function that allows for sharing of Medicaid strategies for different program areas and joint development of the technical support functions of new mandates, all of which would otherwise have to be done separately in each of the six states; and 3) capacity for joint projects among the states utilizing NESCSO's facilities and server for joint database creation and project management at NESCSO's web site.

i. NESCSO accomplishments to date include:

1. The development of the New England States Collaborative Insurance Exchange Systems; a resource guide for members to be able to contact their colleagues in the other states to discuss questions or issues that may arise regarding Health Insurance Exchange.

2. The development of a comprehensive website which supports a clearinghouse/library; development of a web-based project tracking tool available to all New England health and human services employees.

3. Participation in the New England Partnership (a required state-to-state technical assistance project for all federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services grantees for Medicaid Infrastructure grants under the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999)

4. Shared health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) translator development.

5. Several regional studies including demographics affecting Medicaid populations in New England, disease management measurement and a survey on the needs of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) population.

6. Semi-annual New England Commissioner collaborative forums.

7. Workgroups focused on the improvement of children's health, Medicaid eligibility issues, durable medical equipment, pharmacy, primary care payments , health care markets and several other federal and state workshops including federal interoperability regulations.

ii. One of the most significant projects led by NESCSO was the coordination of assessment and implementation efforts of the six New England states for the federally mandated Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. This Act, which standardized data transmissions of healthcare information nationally, was very technical and complex. The six New England states built a team that worked together on the project across the six states.

NESCSO also coordinates and offers the national annual Medicaid Enterprise Systems Conference, formerly known as the Medicaid Management Information System Conference;

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

   a. Training and educational/research materials are included in the cost of membership. Examples include

      i. Timely news and current awareness services via the New England News section of the NESCSO website and periodic updates via e-newsletters

      ii. Access to the NESCSO web-based library and archive service on topics relevant to Medicaid and Health and Human Services

      iii. The NESCSO website, www.nescso.org, offers features such as daily Medicaid and health news updates, links to national and regional sites and individualized favorites. NESCSO's comprehensive library brings together relevant literature and reports from key public and private resources as well as summarized research projects completed for NESCSO members.

      iv. Members also have the ability to request specific information on any healthcare topic directly from the NESCSO website. Additionally, the website is linked to ONTRAK, a personal planner and project tracking system. ONTRAK is a free and secure online web based project management program that allows communication between project specific members via various tools such as a threaded discussion and document sharing.

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

   a. Membership in NESCSO is not required, however, NESCSO is a valuable resource to the Department when addressing issues associated with the administration of the Medicaid 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.

   a. Yes; there is travel included in the membership fee. Specifically, the Board of Directors typically meets quarterly with twice a year in person meetings. The location of the meetings is rotated among the Six New England states. The Commissioner or designee attends both meetings. Other members of the Department attend only when the agenda is pertinent to their scope of responsibilities and at the request of the Commissioner. NESCSO reimburses all travel expenses at 100%.

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.

   a. Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner designee is currently the Medicaid Director– Voting Board Member

b. Any State of NH Department of Health and Human Services employee may access the tools of NESCSO through the NESCSO secure web portal.

10) Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.

a. NESCSO was designed to leverage the Medicaid dollars of the six New England states by avoiding duplication of efforts required by each of the programs and historically performed in isolation. Since new federal Medicaid requirements and ongoing program operational issues are often the same for every state, leveraging the resources of the six states can offer savings of both staff time and state expenditures. If New Hampshire did not belong to NESCSO we would still be faced with the same challenges that come with administering the Medicaid program, however, we would need to address them as an individual state rather than in the collaborative manner that NESCSO allows us.

Area Served: Statewide.

Source of Funds: 100% General Funds.

The New Hampshire support will generate an identical amount of federal Medicaid funds for NESCSO.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan White For:

Lori Weaver
Interim Commissioner

New England States Consortium Systems Organization, Inc.
333 South Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
https://www.mesconference.org/

BILL TO
State of New Hampshire
State of, NH

INVOICE 2023-Member

DATE 07/01/2023 **TERMS** Net 30

DUE DATE 07/31/2023

DESCRIPTION	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 Membership Dues	1	28,500.00	28,500.00

Payment can be made by EFT or ACH. By eliminating paper checks, payments will be expedited and there will be confirmation that payment has been processed. Bank information to facilitate the EFT:
* Bank Name: Country Bank, 75 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082
* Bank Contact: Customer Care Center - 413-277-5301
* Name on Account: New England States Consortium Systems Organization
* ABA/ACH #: 211870980
* Account #: 600000078045
* Federal Tax ID #: 04-3485943

TOTAL DUE **$28,500.00**

If you have any questions concerning this invoice, please contact either David Huffman @ david.huffman@nescso.org or Michele Allan @ michele.allan@nescso.org

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

This Membership Agreement (the "Agreement") is effective as of this 11th day of July, 2023 (the "Effective Date") by and between the New England States Consortium Systems Organization, (NESCSO), a Massachusetts nonprofit corporation, and the State of New Hampshire ("Member State"). Member States of NESCSO shall be referred to collectively as the "Membership-at- Large".

WHEREAS, NESCSO is organized exclusively for charitable, benevolent, scientific, educational, and civic purposes;

WHEREAS, Member State is a State government organization that is recognized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as the Medicaid Single State Agency or is the State Government entity in which the Medicaid Single State Agency is located.

WHEREAS, NESCSO exists solely to support the Membership-at-Large with resources to sustain and improve Member State organizational performance.

NOW THEREFORE, NESCSO and Member State agree to abide by the terms and conditions contained herein:

1. MEMBER STATE OBLIGATIONS
   - 1.1 Generally. Member State agrees to pay the annual fees in the amount of $28,500. Member State agrees that the payment to NESCSO is not eligible for Federal Financial Participation.
   - 1.2 Board Assignments. Member State agrees to appoint a representative to the NESCSO Board and to accept rotating Board Committee assignments.
   - 1.3 Board Meetings. Member State agrees to participate in quarterly NESCSO Board Meetings.

2. NESCSO OBLIGATIONS
   - 2.1 Services. NESCSO will provide, directly or through contracted services, a range of advisory, analytical, consulting and systems development services to Member States. These services are reviewed by the NESCSO Board and approved in NESCSO's annual budget. These services are described in Attachment A.
   - 2.2 Additional Services at NESCSO Expense. Subject to Board Approval, NESCSO may expend resources to meet needs requested by Member States and not included in Attachment A. The NESCSO Board must approve any additional service request when these requests exceed $10,000.
   - 2.3 Additional Services at Member State Expense. Services beyond those described in Attachment A may also be provided by NESCSO to Member States at Member State cost. Contracts between NESCSO and a Member State are not subject to the approval of the full Board and require approval by the Board Member who represents the Member State solely, regardless of the amount of such contract. All approved contracts not subject to majority vote of the Board shall be reported to the full Board. These additional services shall be reflected in Attachment B.
   - 2.4 Non-Member States. Subject to Board Approval, NESCSO may provide services to a non-Member State when those services are aligned with NESCSO's overall mission.

3. AMENDMENT

3.1 Changes, modifications, or amendments to this agreement shall be subject to NESCSO Board approval.

4. TERM AND TERMINATION

4.1 Term. The term of this Agreement shall begin on the Effective Date and, except as provided below, shall continue indefinitely subject to the rights of termination set forth in Section 4.2.

4.2 Termination. Upon termination of Member State's participation on the NESCSO Board, this Membership Agreement shall terminate.

ATTACHMENTS. This agreement consists of the following attachments:
Attachment A: NESCSO Member State Benefits
Attachment B: Additional Services Provided by NESCSO at Member State Cost

ACCEPTED and AGREED:

Member State:	**NESCSO:**
Henry Lipman	David Huffman
Name	Name
Medicaid Director	Executive Director
Title	Title
DocuSigned by: Henry Lipman CE5044DAE70D4E4...	DocuSigned by: David Huffman 70C8633113C5C48C...
Signature	Signature
7/11/2023	7/11/2023
Date	Date

ATTACHMENT A
NESCSO MEMBER BENEFITS

1. Learning Communities
   NESCSO facilitates and supports several learning communities, developed at the request of Member States. The learning communities include representatives from Member States and provide a forum to discuss and learn about issues of common interest. NESCSO provides administrative support in scheduling and hosting the learning community meetings and conference calls, facilitates meetings, and provides resources such as guest speakers.

2. Services
   From July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, Member States can access funds for member benefits, including but not limited to the services listed below. Services must be contracted for and consumed within the benefit fiscal year covered under this agreement. NESCSO funding is set at $75,000.00 per Member State.

   These services are funded by NESCSO on behalf of the Member State as approved by the respective Member State Board member:

   2.1 Health and Human Services Training
   Member States will have the opportunity to access training from a list of pre-qualified vendors. The goal of this training benefit is to increase the organizational capacity of each State's Health and Human Services Agency. This training will focus on promoting person-centered delivery of health and human services using Medicaid as a policy driver and financing mechanism. NESCSO will work with each Member State to identify and access resources to meet each Member State's needs.

   2.2 Travel Reimbursement
   Registration, transportation, and lodging costs for Member State staff participating in regional and national conferences such as the National Association of Medicaid Directors meetings, Medicaid Enterprise Systems Conference, as well as other meetings or conferences. Member States are asked to provide highlights of the meeting/conference and a summary of the significant information learned at the meeting/conference.

   2.3 Other benefits:
   - Membership and participation in *The New England Council* activities.
   - Member States may request other services. If the request is for contracted services in excess of $10,000, the contract is subject to full Board approval

ATTACHMENT B
ADDITIONAL NESCSO SERVICES PROVIDED AT MEMBER STATE COST

1. Definition
NESCSO Services provided at Member State cost are intended to meet the needs of one (1) Member State. Due to the relationship between the Member State and NESCSO, NESCSO is in a unique position to meet the business needs of the Membership at Large.

2. General Services. NESCSO is available to provide the following services:
   - Directly or through contracted services, advisory, analytical, consulting and systems development services
   - Technical Assistance and Subject Matter expertise on topics specific to Medicaid and Health and Human Services
   - Assistance in the development of Requests for Proposals, Advance Planning Documents, and Grant Responses
   - Conference/Meeting/Event Planning

3. Electronic Asset Verification Services
Based on an initiative with Vermont, NESCSO can provide Member States access to a multi-State purchase of Electronic Asset Verification Services. These services comply with Federal requirements and provide participating States with access to volume-based pricing and vendor management support.

4. MAGI in the Cloud
MAGI in the Cloud (MiTC) is an open-source web application developed by Blue Labs, LLC through grant funding from the State Health Reform Assistance Network, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded program, and under the direction of the CMS Entrepreneurs Program. The application determines Medicaid Program and Children's Health Insurance Program income eligibility based on the modified adjusted gross income ("MAGI") calculation as defined by the Affordable Care Act both as a web interface and as an Application Programming Interface ("API"). The application is known as the "MAGI Software."