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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL

Lori A Weaver
Commissioner

Ellen M. Lapointe
Chief Executive Officer

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October 3, 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, New Hampshire Hospital, to make unencumbered payments to the vendors included in the table below, to provide ambulance transportation services, in a shared amount not to exceed \$70,000, effective **retroactively**, to July 1, 2023, upon Governor and Executive Council approval through June 30, 2024. 68% Other Funds (provider fees), 32% General Funds.

Agency Name	Vendor ID	Address
STEWART'S AMBULANCE	155659	20 FOUNDRY AVE, MEREDITH NH 03253-3706
LIFESTAR EMS, LLC	204303	29 NH-113, ALBANY NH 03818
CITY OF CONCORD, NH	177376	41 GREEN ST, CONCORD NH 03301

Funds are available in the following account for State Fiscal Year 2024.

05-95-94-940010-87500000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVS, HHS: NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL, NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL, ACUTE PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

State Fiscal Year	Class/Account	Class Title	Job Number	Total Amount
2024	101-500729	Medical Payments to Providers	94059000	\$70,000

EXPLANATION

This request is **retroactive** because New Hampshire Hospital's higher than normal need to rely on ambulance transportation services has exceeded the \$10,000 threshold requiring Governor and Executive Council approval. In addition to the higher-than-normal service volume, the rates increased on October 1, 2023.

The purpose of this request is to provide medical transportation services for patients at New Hampshire Hospital to other healthcare facilities. Approximately 350 individuals will be served during the State Fiscal Year by medical transportation services. Over the past biennium, the Hospital has actively requested services from multiple ambulance vendors throughout the state and was only able to secure services from the three vendors listed above.

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The medical transportation services will serve New Hampshire Hospital patients who require medical attention that is beyond the array of services offered at New Hampshire Hospital. These cases stem from medical comorbidities (such as frailty), patient self-harm (such as swallowing a foreign body), and other reasons. Many patients at New Hampshire Hospital are either indigent or have their benefits frozen during their admission, which limits the ability of medical transport companies to recover costs through insurance billing.

The Department issued a Request for Application (RFA) in 2019 for ambulance transportation services but received no response. On October 1, 2023, Medicaid reimbursement rates increased. The Department will be issuing an RFA to solicit application for these services utilizing the new increased rates. The increased rates may provide an opportunity for new interest in ambulance transportation services.

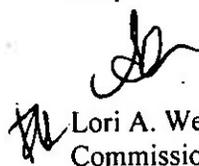
This request to make unencumbered payments is to ensure continuity of care is maintained until another RFA can be executed to contract for medical transportation. The use of services from any one vendor in this request is uncertain.

Should the Governor and Executive Council not authorize this request, the Department will be at risk of not being able to transport patients to another hospital for emergency care or transport patients requiring specialty accommodations to appointments.

Area served: New Hampshire Hospital.

Source of Funds: 68% Other Funds (provider fees), 32% General Funds.

Respectfully Submitted,


Lori A. Weaver
Commissioner