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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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November 28, 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, Division for Children, Youth and Families to pay the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Placement of Children (AAICPC), Atlanta, GA (vendor 304094, R001) \$11,300 for annual membership dues effective January 1, 2024, upon Governor and Executive Council approval through December 31, 2024. 50% Federal Funds; 50% General Funds.

**05-95-42-421010-29560000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HUMAN SVCS
DEPT OF, HHS: HUMAN SERVICES, CHILD PROTECTION, OFFICE OF DIRECTOR-DCYF**

Fiscal Year	Class/Object	Job #	Class Title	Amount
2024	026-500251	42105840	Memberships	\$ 9,800

**05-95-42-421010-32210000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HUMAN SVCS
DEPT OF, HHS: HUMAN SERVICES, CHILD PROTECTION, BUR EVAL ANALYSIS &
REPORTING**

Fiscal Year	Class/Object	Job #	Class Title	Amount
2024	026-500251	42105840	Memberships	\$ 1,500

EXPLANATION

Approval of this request will enable the State to continue participating in the AAICPC, which is a national bipartisan information and advocacy group that represents the needs of human social services. The work of the AAICPC supports the entire range of programs administered by the Department. The AAICPC is a reliable and valuable source of timely and accurate information regarding federal programs, federal funding, future directions, and interpretation of proposed laws and rules.

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is the mechanism New Hampshire has to ensure protection and services to children who are placed across state lines for foster care, adoption, parental, relative and residential placements. The ICPC is a uniform law that has been enacted by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It establishes orderly procedures for the interstate placement of children and fixes responsibility for those involved in placing the child.

The Association represents the State before Congress and federal agencies on matters of concern to New Hampshire. With the many changes to federal programs being passed by Congress each year, it is increasingly important to have current information about those changes, their consequences, and the potential impact on each state, including our own. The most accurate and readily available information of this type is necessary for the efficient administration of our programs.

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 American Public Welfare Association was founded in 1930 and changed its name to American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) in 1997. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services has been a member since 1990 and the NH Department of Health and Welfare was a member in the years prior to that. In 2015, the AAICPC Committee Members voted to separate from APHSA regarding payment of dues and bill states independently.

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?

Agencies from all 50 states are members as well as the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. The Department is the sole New Hampshire agency belonging to the Association. All Divisions and Offices benefit from this membership.

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

A tiered payment system was put in place and states were placed in one of three tiers based on state size and population. New Hampshire was placed in the smallest tier due to being a smaller state, therefore, required to pay the least amount a state would pay.

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

AAICPC is the only association of the nation's top government human service executives from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories—and their key state program managers, plus hundreds of county-level directors of human services throughout the nation—for the exchange of knowledge, data, best practices, policy review and development, networking, and advocacy.

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

Yes. Included in the cost are educational/research materials the Department receives including, but are not limited to, *This Week in Washington*, Legislative Summaries, Policy Papers, Testimonies, E-mail Alerts and Technical Assistance.

7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required 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 annual dues include the travel cost and registration fee for one voting member to attend the annual AAICPC business meeting. The meeting occurs once a year and the location changes each 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.)

New Hampshire has a designated Compact Administrator and Deputy Compact Administrator. Both administrators have voting privileges as members of the AAICPC. In 2022, New Hampshire's Deputy Compact Administrator was voted in as a member of the AAICPC Executive Committee.

Kara Buxton – Compact Administrator
Caitlyn Bickford – Deputy Compact Administrator

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

Not being a member of the AAICPC would negatively impact New Hampshire's ability to ensure safety, provide protection and services to children when seeking placement out of state as well as to children who are placed within New Hampshire from other states.

Area served: statewide.

Source of funds: 50% Federal Funds; 50% General Funds.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lori A. Weaver
Commissioner

