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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

January 31, 2024

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

REQUESTED ACTION

The New Hampshire Department of Energy (Energy) requests **Retroactive** authority to continue its membership and participation in the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP), Vendor #171349, for an amount of \$2,928.28, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval for the period January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **100% Federal Funds**

Funding is available in accounting unit "Low Income Weatherization" as follows:

	<u>FY2024</u>
02-52-52-520010-33560000-026-500251 Organizational Dues	\$2,928.28

EXPLANATION

This request is **Retroactive** due to administrative oversight. Approval of this request will enable Energy to pay annual membership dues to the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP). NASCSPP is a non-profit, member-driven learning network for state and territory managers of Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) programs and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) offices nationwide. NASCSPP works to support its members in the successful administration of federal and state programs. Being a member strengthens organization impact, creates unity, and provides a platform for trusted, collaborative partnerships, and stronger relationships with federal funders. NASCSPP has been instrumental in assisting the state of New Hampshire in planning for and operationalizing funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), as well as planning for and reauthorizing the Formula WAP Grant funds, and producing annual State Plans. A copy of the invoice is attached for your review.

Listed below are answers to the 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?** NASCSPP was incorporated October 31, 1978, in the

state of South Carolina as The National Association of State Economic Opportunity Office Directors. The name was changed November 5, 1981, to the National Association for State Community Services Programs. In 1987, NASCSP's membership expanded to include directors of the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program.

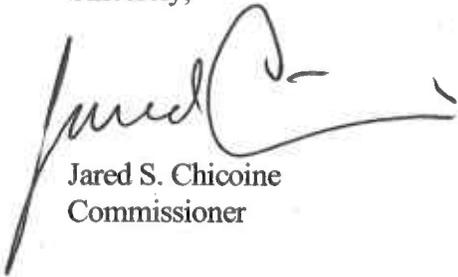
2. **Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?** NASCSP is the sole organization that represents all state administrators of the Weatherization Assistance Program and CSBG Program.
3. **How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?** All 50 states, Washington DC, and 5 territories are members. The NH Department of Energy is the only Weatherization Assistance Program member in NH.
4. **How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)** The dues were derived using a base dues amount and a percentage of state allocation of federal funds for each state. Increases occurred this way through 2008. The next increase in 2015 dues was a flat \$1000 for the 2016 calendar year. The next increase approved by the membership in 2022 called for a 25% dues increase, capped at \$1,000, for the 2023 calendar year, and annual dues increases of 2% for 2024 through 2028. Any change in membership dues is proposed and presented by the Membership Committee and has to be approved by a vote of the membership according to the NASCSP Bylaws.
5. **What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** New Hampshire receives regular updates on actions in Washington, DC, which impact funding and program requirements; there are educational and training resources for state staff, along with technical expertise and advice on programs implementation.
6. **Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail** Membership allows participation in a variety of learning opportunities, training events, topic-focused webinars, and one-on-one consultation with experienced NASCSP staff. Membership also provides access to information on critical issues, research, and resources, such as from national energy labs, accredited weatherization training centers, and other states managing the same programs. All of this is free to members. National training conferences are an additional expense.
7. **Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.** Membership is not required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams.
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, US DOE supports and issues a Memo of support for each of the NASCSP training conferences where important WAP updates and trainings are shared. Each state receives T&TA funds for travel and conference attendance. Members do get a discounted conference registration rate.
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?)** Membership is for the department as a whole, however, the staff members that have the most interaction are the Department's Weatherization Program

staff: Kirk Stone, Joseph Cicirelli, Brittany Mitchell, and Michele York.

- 10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.** New Hampshire would lose access to the valuable resources that NASCSP provides, such as educational and training resources for staff, and technical expertise for local program management, networking among members on common program problems and concerns.

Your consideration of our request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Chicoine", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner

Attachments – NASCSP Dues Invoice



NASCSP

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATE COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

September 21, 2023

Kirk Stone

Weatherization Program Manager, New Hampshire Department of Energy

Via email: kirk.m.stone@energy.nh.gov

Dear Kirk:

On behalf of the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSP) Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your participation and continued support of NASCSP. This organization was founded by state administrators in 1978 to support and advance the work of Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) administrators as they pursue economic security and energy efficiency for people and communities across the country. Specifically, NASCSP supports its membership in four important ways.

NASCSP connects us with our peers in all the states and territories, a connection made stronger and more important since the pandemic. We've shared best practices on webinars and learned from each other on regional calls. NASCSP's WAP and CSBG newsletters, emails, and social media inform us of new program developments, reporting deadlines, and funding opportunities.

NASCSP connects us to our federal partners, hosting sessions at conferences featuring key officials from the U.S. Departments of Energy and Health and Human Services. NASCSP coordinates, develops, and disseminates critical information and data on both CSBG and WAP implementation for key federal agencies and other stakeholders.

NASCSP also connects us with national partners and relevant networks. As a trusted ally, NASCSP is a voice alongside our national partners to advocate on CSBG and WAP legislative and policy issues, including both reauthorization and appropriations.

Another premier member benefit is the high quality, relevant, and timely training and technical assistance NASCSP staff provide to states looking to improve systems from contracting and procurement to state plan development and annual reporting. NASCSP's new manager orientation is a must-attend for state employees seeking to increase their knowledge of CSBG and WAP.

As we celebrate our 45th anniversary, we count on your continued support to advance our collective efforts to create economic security for all Americans. Enclosed is your 2024 membership dues invoice. Thank you for your belief in, and commitment to, our shared mission!

Please remember, as always, to contact us if there is anything we can do to assist you.

Sincerely,

Beverly Buchanan

Beverly Buchanan

President, NASCSP Board of Directors

Enclosures

LEADERSHIP

Beverly Buchanan, President, AR
Melanie Sanford, Vice President, MI
Matt Fitzgerald, Secretary, VA

LEADERSHIP

Leslie Taylor, CSBG Program Chair, CA
Jeff Heino, WAP Program Chair, WI
Cheryl Williams, Executive Director

CONTACT

111 K ST NE, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 370-3657
www.nascsp.org



NASCSP

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATE COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

2024 NASCSP MEMBERSHIP DUES INVOICE

TO: Kirk Stone
Weatherization Program Manager
New Hampshire Department of Energy

FROM: National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSP)

RE: **Membership Dues**

INVOICE#: **NH-NASCSP2024-WAP**

DATE: September 21, 2023

2024 WAP Dues..... \$2928.28

Membership covers services from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024

Please make checks payable to NASCSP and remit to:

NASCSP
111 K Street, NE
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Federal ID # 57 0715943
Dun # 849157102

Payment due by December 31, 2023. Dues are considered delinquent after January 31, 2024.

THANK YOU

LEADERSHIP

Beverly Buchanan, President, *AR*
Melanie Sanford, Vice President, *MI*
Matt Fitzgerald, Secretary, *VA*

LEADERSHIP

Leslie Taylor, CSBG Program Chair, *CA*
Jeff Heino, WAP Program Chair, *WI*
Cheryl Williams, Executive Director

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