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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, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

The New Hampshire Department of Energy (Department) requests **RETROACTIVE** authority to continue its membership and participation in the National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA), Vendor # 210258, for an amount of \$4,720, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **100% Federal Funds.**

Funding is available in account Fuel Assistance, as follows:

02-52-52-520510-33540000-026-500251 Organizational Dues	<u>FY 2024</u> \$4,720
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EXPLANATION

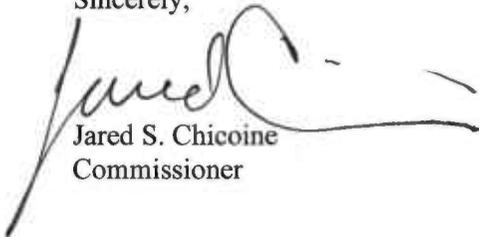
This request is **RETROACTIVE** due to receiving the invoice late. Approval of this request will enable the department to pay annual membership dues to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA). NEADA supports energy assistance programs in 49 states and the District of Columbia. NEADA facilitates regional discussions for states to share best practices on implementing effective energy assistance programs and works on behalf of the States and Territories with federal agencies, particularly the US Department of Health and Human Services. NEADA is also a critical resource for ensuring that New Hampshire remains on top of the increasingly complex federal requirements as well as for other initiatives, such as the NHDOE's project to replace the backbone case management system used by the Community Action Agencies for the fuel assistance program. In addition, NEADA has been instrumental in assisting the state in planning for and operationalizing the influx of federal funds received in recent years. A copy of the invoice is attached for your review.

- 1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?** NEADA was formed in 1999 and New Hampshire has been a member since 1999.
- 2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?** There are no other national organizations that support state energy officials
- 3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?** 49 states and Washington DC. NH DOE is the sole state agency member.
- 4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)** Dues are based on the state's share of the total fuel assistance allocation made by Congress.

5. **What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** New Hampshire receives regular updates on actions in Washington DC impacting funding and program requirements, educational resources for staff, technical expertise and advice on programs, and advocacy in Washington DC at the relevant federal agencies.
6. **Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.** Indirectly. Membership allows participation in a variety of learning opportunities, round tables, and panels via phone or platforms such as Zoom.
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 travel is included in this membership fee.
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 Leah Richards, Brenda Souther, Leslie Parker, and Alexis LaBrie.
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 NEADA provides, such as educational resources for staff, and technical expertise and advice on programs.

Your consideration of our request is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner

Attachment: NEADA invoice

NEADA

NATIONAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 42655
Washington DC 20015-0655
202-333-5915
Tax ID: 42-1445636

Date: 12/12/2023

INVOICE # NH2024LH
DUE DATE: 01/11/2024
TERMS: Net 30

Bill To:
Leah Richards
Fuel Assistance Program Administrator
Office of Strategic Initiatives
21 So. Fruit Street, Ste. 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

For:
NEADA 2024 Dues

Description	Amount
Dues covering the period from January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024	\$4,720.00
Total	\$4,720.00

Please make all checks payable to NEADA.

NEADA

NATIONAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION

Member Services

NEADA represents the state directors of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Key NEADA tasks include providing a forum for state grantees to share information on program operations, researching the need for and facilitating training and technical assistance, and conducting program surveys in response to Administration and Congressional requests for information on program operations as they consider program funding levels.

Last year, NEADA submitted testimony to Congress in support of \$6 billion for LIHEAP and directed a media campaign to inform the public about the importance of LIHEAP that was instrumental in raising awareness about the need for energy assistance and the need for increased funding for the program.

In an effort to quantify and illustrate energy affordability trends, particularly for low- and moderate-income (LMI) households, NEADA released its Energy Hardship Report, which covers different dimensions of energy affordability, and the burdens high prices can have on LMI households. The report shows how much households are struggling to afford their energy bills going into the 2023-24 winter heating season. This document will be updated quarterly with the latest data on energy affordability.

Looking to 2024, NEADA is working with HHS and utilities to improve LIHEAP outreach, including a national campaign. NEADA is also spearheading National LIHEAP Sign Up Day, including a toolkit for states, utilities, and local agencies that want to participate. This effort will improve the visibility of the program among eligible customers. Finally, NEADA is continuing two projects with the National Association of State Energy Officials and the U.S. Department of Energy to determine appropriate uses of LIHEAP funds for renewable energy.

NEADA's full member services are as follows.

Membership Listserv - Enables members to:

- solicit real-time data and ideas for program implementation from other members
- provide up-to-date information on budget and program issues to LIHEAP directors
- provide state-specific data to NEADA for government affairs efforts

NEADA Website

- provide breaking news, appropriations updates and meeting information
- maintain database of past NEADA testimony, publications, surveys, meeting details, state/territory contact information, meeting minutes, bylaws

Congressional Affairs

- share summary of research and solicit input from members on state-specific impacts
- develop NEADA position statements on proposed legislative/budgetary changes
- maintain regular contact with Hill staffers on LIHEAP budget and legislative issues/proposals
- prepare and provide NEADA testimony on LIHEAP issues to Congress
- prepare and submit letters to Congress and the Administration on funding issues
- participate in planning of and activities included in LIHEAP Action Day
- respond to data requests from congressional staff on national and state LIHEAP issues

OCS/NEADA Relationship

- review and provide analysis/explanation of administration's budget proposals to membership
- monitor and advocate for timely release of funds
- participate in regular meetings with OCS staff to collaborate and resolve issues

Training and Technical Assistance

- provide two-day in person training conference for LIHEAP directors and staff
- coordinate training efforts with OCS and provide suggestions for OCS conferences and webinars.

NEADA Annual and Winter Meetings

- arrange meeting location, hotel block and meals
- set agenda; schedule speakers
- provide access to meeting follow-up including minutes, notes, and presentations

NEADA Board

- facilitate monthly Board meeting
- post Board meeting minutes to NEADA website
- hold annual elections and fill Board vacancies
- provide budget information and other documents at the request of the Board

Other Services

- provide introduction and welcome information to new LIHEAP Directors
- make presentations regarding LIHEAP to other organizations' meetings
- interact with the press (press releases, telephone interviews, on-camera interviews, etc.)
- provide regular updates to members on status of appropriations and legislative proposals
- work collaboratively with sister organizations including the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC), the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO).