



April 15, 2024

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Business and Economic Affairs to enter into a contract with Blaze Partners, LLC (Vendor Code #494599), of Falmouth, ME in the amount of \$1,750,000 for marketing and communications services, effective upon Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2025. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds are available in account EDA Travel and Tourism Grant for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 with the authority to adjust encumbrances between fiscal years within the price limitation through the Budget Office, if needed and justified.

	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>
03-22-022-221010-26330000-102-500731 Contracts for Program Serv.	\$18,500	\$1,731,500

EXPLANATION

The US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) a Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation grant under the American Rescue Plan Act. BEA will use a portion of these funds to develop and execute a marketing and communications strategy to enhance safety and sustainability messaging specifically focused on New Hampshire's outdoor recreational activities.

New Hampshire's natural assets and outdoor recreational opportunities play a crucial role in attracting visitors, workers, and businesses to the state. Outdoor recreation is intrinsic to New Hampshire's culture, with residents valuing and taking pride in the state's natural resources. Managing and preserving New Hampshire's natural assets is thus essential toward sustaining and strengthening the state's economy, its live free culture, and the well-being of its residents and visitors.

In recent years, the growth in popularity of certain locations led to over-crowding in many areas, and with it parking, traffic, and overwhelmed trailheads have contributed to a growing number of disappointed residents and visitors. Coinciding with this trend are increased numbers of people who have requested assistance or rescue. In most cases, the cause of these incidents can be attributed to a lack of proper preparedness.

BEA will utilize this contract to work with its partner agencies to help educate and inform the public with the goal of reducing overuse, disbursing crowds, embrace "Leave no Trace" strategies, and better communicate about the challenges (and dangers) of recreating outdoors in New Hampshire year-round. We will accomplish this by working with state and private partners to catalogue current safety and sustainability messaging, assess their effectiveness, and develop and execute a strategy for more cohesive and effective programmatic implementation going forward. This will be aimed at improving the experience for residents and visitors alike, as well as reducing the need for search and rescue operations.

The department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for these services on February 15, 2024. Notice of the RFP was posted on visitnh.gov and admin.state.nh.us. Subsequently, sixteen vendors submitted formal written proposals on March 7, 2024.

A selection committee comprised of BEA staff (Schedule #2) reviewed and scored the proposals (Schedule #1) Blaze Partners LLC (Blaze) was ultimately awarded the contract with BEA. Scoring is included as Schedule #3.

Blaze Partners is an advertising/digital marketing agency with decades of experience working with brands, nonprofits, and state agencies on programs and campaigns within the outdoor recreation, higher education, transportation/tourism, and consumer lifestyle industries.

Blaze is the agency of record for the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, as well as the Amtrak Downeaster, which provides passenger rail service between Portland and Boston and includes stops in New Hampshire. Its work includes creating strategies and campaigns targeting travelers visiting or considering a trip to New Hampshire. The agency is also the founder of Maine Outdoor Brands, an alliance of like-minded brands and nonprofits working together in support of Maine's outdoor recreation economy.

The Attorney General's office has approved this contract as to form, substance, and execution.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Caswell".

Taylor Caswell
Commissioner

Department of Business and Economic Affairs
 Outdoor Recreation Marketing & Communication Services RFP
 Proposal Scoring Criteria

SCHEDULE #1

Proposals will be reviewed, evaluated, and scored by an evaluation committee. Evaluation of proposals will be based on the following criteria for each component. Each criterion will be scored according to the degree of responsiveness present in the proposal being evaluated.

	Max. Points
1. EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF KEY STAFF & SUBCONTRACTORS Our evaluation will include an assessment of the history of your company, your company and its key staff members' experience as it relates to the requirements within this RFP, evidence of past performance, quality and relevance of past work, references, and related items. RFP Section 8.	30
2. OVERALL STRATEGY AND APPROACH, METHODOLOGY Our evaluation will include an assessment of the overall approach – strategy and tactics. that will address the items of the Scope of Work in RFP Section 2.	40
3. CREATIVITY/INNOVATION Our evaluation will include an assessment of the quality of proposed strategies and creativity/innovation of the approach.	15
4. BUDGET APPROACH / COST EFFECTIVENESS Effective and efficient delivery of quality content and services is demonstrated in relation to the fee and value of overall project. The budget is reasonable and appropriate. Approach to fee structure is balanced and structured to maximize investment.	15
TOTAL POINTS	100

**Department of Business and Economic Affairs
Outdoor Recreation Marketing & Communications Services RFP
Proposal Review Committee**

Lori Harnois, Director

Division of Travel & Tourism Development
100 North Main Street, Suite 100, Concord, NH 03301
603-271-2665 Lori.J.Harnois@livefree.nh.gov

Lori Harnois has more than 20 years of experience in the field of marketing, promotions and operations. Her primary role as the Director is to promote NH as a domestic and international travel destination in order to increase visitation, travel expenditures, business activity and employment throughout the state. Her background and experience provide her with the knowledge to develop strategies that drive marketing New Hampshire's assets.

Amy Bassett, Deputy Director

Division of Travel & Tourism Development
100 North Main Street, Suite 100, Concord, NH 03301
603-271-2665 Amy.O.Bassett@livefree.nh.gov

Amy Bassett is the Deputy Director of the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism. Bassett is an experienced senior management executive with more than two decades of experience in utilizing research to create, manage, and execute marketing and public relations campaigns and events at the state level. The experience that she has gained, enables her to think strategically and utilizes data and resources to market New Hampshire as a year-round destination.

Kris Neilsen, Communications Manager

Division of Travel & Tourism Development
100 North Main Street, Suite 100, Concord, NH 03301
603-271-2665 Kris.M.Nelisen@livefree.nh.gov

Kris Neilsen is the Communications and Social Media Manager for the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism. In this role she oversees VisitNH's social media as well as the domestic and Canadian Public Relations efforts. She has more than fifteen years of experience providing communication direction within New Hampshire State Government. She also has extensive experience in the broadcast industry.

Janel Lawton, Director

Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development
100 North Main Street, Suite 100, Concord, NH 03301
603-545-1579 Janel.M.Lawton@livefree.nh.gov

Janel Lawton initially joined the BEA as its Rural Economic Development Administrator, collaborating with public and private stakeholders across six rural counties. She also served as the state's program manager for the Northern Borders Regional Commission. Transitioning in 2022, Janel assumed the role of Director of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development and now leads efforts to enhance the outdoor recreation economy in New Hampshire. She collaborates with state, federal, and public-private partners to align resources for economic development, education, health, conservation, and stewardship initiatives. Through her work, Janel aims to support the growth and sustainability of outdoor recreation while promoting the well-being of communities and the preservation of natural assets in the state.

Department of Business and Economic Affairs
 Outdoor Recreation Marketing & Communications Services
 Proposal Evaluation

SCHEDULE #3

	Experience and Qualifications of Key staff & Subcontractors (120 points)	Overall Strategy and Approach, Methodology (160 points)	Creativity/Innovation (60 points)	Budget Approach/Cost Effectiveness (60 points)	Proposed Contract Cost	Grant Total (400 points)
Alipes Inc. Boston, MA	80	97	34	28	\$1,750,000	239
Blaze Partners LLC Falmouth, ME	115	140	58	55	\$1,750,000	368
Connelly Partners Portsmouth, MA	88	80	38	48	\$1,750,000	254
CRO Planning & Design Burlington, VT	112	108	41	48	\$1,750,000	309
Drinkwater Productions LLC Exeter, NH	65	60	25	25	\$1,750,000	175
GUD Marketing Lansing, MI	87	96	38	30	\$1,750,000	251
GYK Antler LLC Manchester, NH	108	98	40	43	\$1,750,000	289
Hoffman York Milwaukee, WI	96	102	39	38	\$1,750,000	275
Huck Strategies, LLC Newburyport, MA	96	115	47	44	\$1,750,000	302
JXM Shirley, MA	58	53	26	38	\$1,750,000	175
Kelly Creative Nashua, NH	55	50	23	28	\$66,950 *Communication portion only	156

Millennium Agency Manchester, NH	73	85	35	42	\$1,750,000	235
Miller Advertising Agency New York, NY	80	105	33	40	\$1,750,000	258
Noble Studios Reno, NV	89	100	45	37	\$1,750,000	271
We Are Rally, LLC Los Angeles, CA	82	90	41	49	\$1,750,000	262
Wedu Manchester, NH	107	123	37	47	\$1,750,000	314

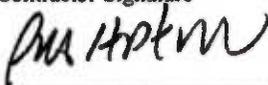
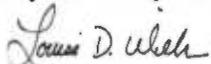
Notice: This agreement and all of its attachments shall become public upon submission to Governor and Executive Council for approval. Any information that is private, confidential or proprietary must be clearly identified to the agency and agreed to in writing prior to signing the contract.

AGREEMENT

The State of New Hampshire and the Contractor hereby mutually agree as follows:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

I. IDENTIFICATION.

1.1 State Agency Name Department of Business and Economic Affairs		1.2 State Agency Address 100 North Main Street, Suite 100 Concord, NH 03301	
1.3 Contractor Name Blaze Partners, LLC		1.4 Contractor Address 106 Lafayette Street, Suite 1B Falmouth, ME 04096	
1.5 Contractor Phone Number 207-200-8002	1.6 Account Unit and Class 26330000/102/500731	1.7 Completion Date 6/30/2025	1.8 Price Limitation \$1,750,000
1.9 Contracting Officer for State Agency Taylor Caswell, Commissioner		1.10 State Agency Telephone Number 603-271-2341	
1.11 Contractor Signature  Date: 4/15/24		1.12 Name and Title of Contractor Signatory James Hauptman, Managing Partner	
1.13 State Agency Signature  Date: 4/22/2024		1.14 Name and Title of State Agency Signatory Taylor Caswell, Commissioner	
1.15 Approval by the N.H. Department of Administration, Division of Personnel (if applicable) By: _____ Director, On: _____			
1.16 Approval by the Attorney General (Form, Substance and Execution) (if applicable) By:  Attorney On: April 24, 2024			
1.17 Approval by the Governor and Executive Council (if applicable) G&C Item number: _____ G&C Meeting Date: _____			

Contractor Initials 
Date 4/15/24

2. SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED. The State of New Hampshire, acting through the agency identified in block 1.1 ("State"), engages contractor identified in block 1.3 ("Contractor") to perform, and the Contractor shall perform, the work or sale of goods, or both, identified and more particularly described in the attached EXHIBIT B which is incorporated herein by reference ("Services").

3. EFFECTIVE DATE/COMPLETION OF SERVICES.

3.1 Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, and subject to the approval of the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire, if applicable, this Agreement, and all obligations of the parties hereunder, shall become effective on the date the Governor and Executive Council approve this Agreement, unless no such approval is required, in which case the Agreement shall become effective on the date the Agreement is signed by the State Agency as shown in block 1.13 ("Effective Date").

3.2 If the Contractor commences the Services prior to the Effective Date, all Services performed by the Contractor prior to the Effective Date shall be performed at the sole risk of the Contractor, and in the event that this Agreement does not become effective, the State shall have no liability to the Contractor, including without limitation, any obligation to pay the Contractor for any costs incurred or Services performed.

3.3 Contractor must complete all Services by the Completion Date specified in block 1.7.

4. CONDITIONAL NATURE OF AGREEMENT.

Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, all obligations of the State hereunder, including, without limitation, the continuance of payments hereunder, are contingent upon the availability and continued appropriation of funds. In no event shall the State be liable for any payments hereunder in excess of such available appropriated funds. In the event of a reduction or termination of appropriated funds by any state or federal legislative or executive action that reduces, eliminates or otherwise modifies the appropriation or availability of funding for this Agreement and the Scope for Services provided in EXHIBIT B, in whole or in part, the State shall have the right to withhold payment until such funds become available, if ever, and shall have the right to reduce or terminate the Services under this Agreement immediately upon giving the Contractor notice of such reduction or termination. The State shall not be required to transfer funds from any other account or source to the Account identified in block 1.6 in the event funds in that Account are reduced or unavailable.

5. CONTRACT PRICE/PRICE LIMITATION/ PAYMENT.

5.1 The contract price, method of payment, and terms of payment are identified and more particularly described in EXHIBIT C which is incorporated herein by reference.

5.2 Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement to the contrary, and notwithstanding unexpected circumstances, in no event shall the total of all payments authorized, or actually made hereunder, exceed the Price Limitation set forth in block 1.8. The payment by the State of the contract price shall be the only and the complete reimbursement to the Contractor for all expenses, of whatever nature incurred by the Contractor in the performance

hereof, and shall be the only and the complete compensation to the Contractor for the Services.

5.3 The State reserves the right to offset from any amounts otherwise payable to the Contractor under this Agreement those liquidated amounts required or permitted by N.H. RSA 80:7 through RSA 80:7-c or any other provision of law.

5.4 The State's liability under this Agreement shall be limited to monetary damages not to exceed the total fees paid. The Contractor agrees that it has an adequate remedy at law for any breach of this Agreement by the State and hereby waives any right to specific performance or other equitable remedies against the State.

6. COMPLIANCE BY CONTRACTOR WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS/EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.

6.1 In connection with the performance of the Services, the Contractor shall comply with all applicable statutes, laws, regulations, and orders of federal, state, county or municipal authorities which impose any obligation or duty upon the Contractor, including, but not limited to, civil rights and equal employment opportunity laws and the Governor's order on Respect and Civility in the Workplace, Executive order 2020-01. In addition, if this Agreement is funded in any part by monies of the United States, the Contractor shall comply with all federal executive orders, rules, regulations and statutes, and with any rules, regulations and guidelines as the State or the United States issue to implement these regulations. The Contractor shall also comply with all applicable intellectual property laws.

6.2 During the term of this Agreement, the Contractor shall not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment because of age, sex, sexual orientation, race, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, religious creed, national origin, gender identity, or gender expression, and will take affirmative action to prevent such discrimination, unless exempt by state or federal law. The Contractor shall ensure any subcontractors comply with these nondiscrimination requirements.

6.3 No payments or transfers of value by Contractor or its representatives in connection with this Agreement have or shall be made which have the purpose or effect of public or commercial bribery, or acceptance of or acquiescence in extortion, kickbacks, or other unlawful or improper means of obtaining business.

6.4. The Contractor agrees to permit the State or United States access to any of the Contractor's books, records and accounts for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with this Agreement and all rules, regulations and orders pertaining to the covenants, terms and conditions of this Agreement.

7. PERSONNEL.

7.1 The Contractor shall at its own expense provide all personnel necessary to perform the Services. The Contractor warrants that all personnel engaged in the Services shall be qualified to perform the Services, and shall be properly licensed and otherwise authorized to do so under all applicable laws.

7.2 The Contracting Officer specified in block 1.9, or any successor, shall be the State's point of contact pertaining to this Agreement.

8. EVENT OF DEFAULT/REMEDIES.

8.1 Any one or more of the following acts or omissions of the Contractor shall constitute an event of default hereunder ("Event of Default"):

- 8.1.1 failure to perform the Services satisfactorily or on schedule;
- 8.1.2 failure to submit any report required hereunder; and/or
- 8.1.3 failure to perform any other covenant, term or condition of this Agreement.

8.2 Upon the occurrence of any Event of Default, the State may take any one, or more, or all, of the following actions:

8.2.1 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default and requiring it to be remedied within, in the absence of a greater or lesser specification of time, thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the notice; and if the Event of Default is not timely cured, terminate this Agreement, effective two (2) calendar days after giving the Contractor notice of termination;

8.2.2 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default and suspending all payments to be made under this Agreement and ordering that the portion of the contract price which would otherwise accrue to the Contractor during the period from the date of such notice until such time as the State determines that the Contractor has cured the Event of Default shall never be paid to the Contractor;

8.2.3 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default and set off against any other obligations the State may owe to the Contractor any damages the State suffers by reason of any Event of Default; and/or

8.2.4 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default, treat the Agreement as breached, terminate the Agreement and pursue any of its remedies at law or in equity, or both.

9. TERMINATION.

9.1 Notwithstanding paragraph 8, the State may, at its sole discretion, terminate the Agreement for any reason, in whole or in part, by thirty (30) calendar days written notice to the Contractor that the State is exercising its option to terminate the Agreement.

9.2 In the event of an early termination of this Agreement for any reason other than the completion of the Services, the Contractor shall, at the State's discretion, deliver to the Contracting Officer, not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the date of termination, a report ("Termination Report") describing in detail all Services performed, and the contract price earned, to and including the date of termination. In addition, at the State's discretion, the Contractor shall, within fifteen (15) calendar days of notice of early termination, develop and submit to the State a transition plan for Services under the Agreement.

10. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP/DISCLOSURE.

10.1 As used in this Agreement, the word "Property" shall mean all data, information and things developed or obtained during the performance of, or acquired or developed by reason of, this Agreement, including, but not limited to, all studies, reports, files, formulae, surveys, maps, charts, sound recordings, video recordings, pictorial reproductions, drawings, analyses, graphic representations, computer programs, computer printouts, notes, letters, memoranda, papers, and documents, all whether finished or unfinished.

10.2 All data and any Property which has been received from the State, or purchased with funds provided for that purpose under this Agreement, shall be the property of the State, and shall be returned to the State upon demand or upon termination of this Agreement for any reason.

10.3 Disclosure of data, information and other records shall be governed by N.H. RSA chapter 91-A and/or other applicable law. Disclosure requires prior written approval of the State.

11. CONTRACTOR'S RELATION TO THE STATE. In the performance of this Agreement the Contractor is in all respects an independent contractor, and is neither an agent nor an employee of the State. Neither the Contractor nor any of its officers, employees, agents or members shall have authority to bind the State or receive any benefits, workers' compensation or other emoluments provided by the State to its employees.

12. ASSIGNMENT/DELEGATION/SUBCONTRACTS.

12.1 Contractor shall provide the State written notice at least fifteen (15) calendar days before any proposed assignment, delegation, or other transfer of any interest in this Agreement. No such assignment, delegation, or other transfer shall be effective without the written consent of the State.

12.2 For purposes of paragraph 12, a Change of Control shall constitute assignment. "Change of Control" means (a) merger, consolidation, or a transaction or series of related transactions in which a third party, together with its affiliates, becomes the direct or indirect owner of fifty percent (50%) or more of the voting shares or similar equity interests, or combined voting power of the Contractor, or (b) the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Contractor.

12.3 None of the Services shall be subcontracted by the Contractor without prior written notice and consent of the State.

12.4 The State is entitled to copies of all subcontracts and assignment agreements and shall not be bound by any provisions contained in a subcontract or an assignment agreement to which it is not a party.

13. INDEMNIFICATION. The Contractor shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the State, its officers, and employees from and against all actions, claims, damages, demands, judgments, fines, liabilities, losses, and other expenses, including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees, arising out of or relating to this Agreement directly or indirectly arising from death, personal injury, property damage, intellectual property infringement, or other claims asserted against the State, its officers, or employees caused by the acts or omissions of negligence, reckless or willful misconduct, or fraud by the Contractor, its employees, agents, or subcontractors. The State shall not be liable for any costs incurred by the Contractor arising under this paragraph 13. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein contained shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of the State's sovereign immunity, which immunity is hereby reserved to the State. This covenant in paragraph 13 shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

Contractor Initials *JA*
Date *7/15/12*

14. INSURANCE.

14.1 The Contractor shall, at its sole expense, obtain and continuously maintain in force, and shall require any subcontractor or assignee to obtain and maintain in force, the following insurance:

14.1.1 commercial general liability insurance against all claims of bodily injury, death or property damage, in amounts of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate or excess; and

14.1.2 special cause of loss coverage form covering all Property subject to subparagraph 10.2 herein, in an amount not less than 80% of the whole replacement value of the Property.

14.2 The policies described in subparagraph 14.1 herein shall be on policy forms and endorsements approved for use in the State of New Hampshire by the N.H. Department of Insurance, and issued by insurers licensed in the State of New Hampshire.

14.3 The Contractor shall furnish to the Contracting Officer identified in block 1.9, or any successor, a certificate(s) of insurance for all insurance required under this Agreement. At the request of the Contracting Officer, or any successor, the Contractor shall provide certificate(s) of insurance for all renewal(s) of insurance required under this Agreement. The certificate(s) of insurance and any renewals thereof shall be attached and are incorporated herein by reference.

15. WORKERS' COMPENSATION.

15.1 By signing this agreement, the Contractor agrees, certifies and warrants that the Contractor is in compliance with or exempt from, the requirements of N.H. RSA chapter 281-A ("*Workers' Compensation*").

15.2 To the extent the Contractor is subject to the requirements of N.H. RSA chapter 281-A, Contractor shall maintain, and require any subcontractor or assignee to secure and maintain, payment of Workers' Compensation in connection with activities which the person proposes to undertake pursuant to this Agreement. The Contractor shall furnish the Contracting Officer identified in block 1.9, or any successor, proof of Workers' Compensation in the manner described in N.H. RSA chapter 281-A and any applicable renewal(s) thereof, which shall be attached and are incorporated herein by reference. The State shall not be responsible for payment of any Workers' Compensation premiums or for any other claim or benefit for Contractor, or any subcontractor or employee of Contractor, which might arise under applicable State of New Hampshire Workers' Compensation laws in connection with the performance of the Services under this Agreement.

16. WAIVER OF BREACH. A State's failure to enforce its rights with respect to any single or continuing breach of this Agreement shall not act as a waiver of the right of the State to later enforce any such rights or to enforce any other or any subsequent breach.

17. NOTICE: Any notice by a party hereto to the other party shall be deemed to have been duly delivered or given at the time of mailing by certified mail, postage prepaid, in a United States Post Office addressed to the parties at the addresses given in blocks 1.2 and 1.4, herein.

18. AMENDMENT. This Agreement may be amended, waived or discharged only by an instrument in writing signed by the parties hereto and only after approval of such amendment, waiver or discharge by the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire unless no such approval is required under the circumstances pursuant to State law, rule or policy.

19. CHOICE OF LAW AND FORUM.

19.1 This Agreement shall be governed, interpreted and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Hampshire except where the Federal supremacy clause requires otherwise. The wording used in this Agreement is the wording chosen by the parties to express their mutual intent, and no rule of construction shall be applied against or in favor of any party.

19.2 Any actions arising out of this Agreement, including the breach or alleged breach thereof, may not be submitted to binding arbitration, but must, instead, be brought and maintained in the Merrimack County Superior Court of New Hampshire which shall have exclusive jurisdiction thereof.

20. CONFLICTING TERMS. In the event of a conflict between the terms of this P-37 form (as modified in EXHIBIT A) and any other portion of this Agreement including any attachments thereto, the terms of the P-37 (as modified in EXHIBIT A) shall control.

21. THIRD PARTIES. This Agreement is being entered into for the sole benefit of the parties hereto, and nothing herein, express or implied, is intended to or will confer any legal or equitable right, benefit, or remedy of any nature upon any other person.

22. HEADINGS. The headings throughout the Agreement are for reference purposes only, and the words contained therein shall in no way be held to explain, modify, amplify or aid in the interpretation, construction or meaning of the provisions of this Agreement.

23. SPECIAL PROVISIONS. Additional or modifying provisions set forth in the attached EXHIBIT A are incorporated herein by reference.

24. FURTHER ASSURANCES. The Contractor, along with its agents and affiliates, shall, at its own cost and expense, execute any additional documents and take such further actions as may be reasonably required to carry out the provisions of this Agreement and give effect to the transactions contemplated hereby.

25. SEVERABILITY. In the event any of the provisions of this Agreement are held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to any state or federal law, the remaining provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect.

26. ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Agreement, which may be executed in a number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the parties, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings with respect to the subject matter hereof.

Contractor Initials *AK*
Date *9/15/14*

**EXHIBIT A
SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

There are no special provisions included with this contract

**EXHIBIT B
SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Blaze Partners, LLC. (Blaze) will contract with the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) to develop and execute a marketing and communications strategy to enhance safety and sustainability educational offerings specifically oriented toward New Hampshire's outdoor recreational activities. Specific details as follows:

1. Scope of Work

- 1.1 Inventory and assess existing safety and sustainability educational offerings specifically oriented toward New Hampshire's outdoor recreational activities, including resources developed and/or used by other state agencies and relevant public, private, or not-for-profit entities.
- 1.2 Develop and execute an integrated marketing and communications strategy for the different user safety and sustainability educational marketing programs related to outdoor recreational activities in New Hampshire.
- 1.3 The strategy must include goals, objectives, tactics and recommended media outlets.
- 1.4 The strategy must be mindful of the varying safety and sustainability issues across New Hampshire's outdoor activities and incorporate both general and activity-specific education offerings.
- 1.5 Develop improved and more cohesive messaging among all stakeholders with respect to access, safety, and sustainability to increase the safety of outdoor recreational users and protect against overuse of the state's natural resources.
- 1.6 Evaluate, adjust, and/or redevelop the creative execution of the New Hampshire Leave No Trace Program.
- 1.7 Develop a social media strategy and provide the appropriate content (posts/images) for partners to utilize.
- 1.8 Develop an online toolkit of assets that can be utilized by partners. The toolkit should include but not be limited to creative assets, best practices for social media, and media buying strategies for organizations.
- 1.9 Meet regularly with BEA staff to provide updates on progress and direction.
- 1.10 Provide monthly reports that include monthly activity, expenditures, tracking, results, and progress.

2. Right to Cancel

- 2.1 BEA has the right to alter or cancel any schedules, services or projects of Blaze or its outside vendors at any time. Blaze will take necessary steps to implement

Initials DAK/24
Date 4/16/24

changes requested by BEA. In turn, BEA agrees to pay any fees incurred for work in progress or materials purchased, or for other liabilities incurred as a result of the required changes or cancellations.

3. Approval

- 3.1 Blaze will provide a written estimate of work for BEA approval in advance of beginning work on special or optional projects. The estimates will detail the nature of the work and the associated costs. Blaze will adhere to these costs as the estimates, once signed by BEA, form the contract between the two parties. Should there be a change in scope of services to be provided, Blaze will revise the estimate and seek approval from BEA before proceeding. The signed estimate indicates approval to proceed.

4. Ownership

- 4.1 All materials and product prepared and provided by Blaze for BEA will become the property of BEA, upon payment, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by both parties.

5. Staffing and Project Management

- 5.1 Blaze agrees to have the appropriate principals directly responsible for the management of all projects undertaken by it on behalf of BEA. A principal of the organization will also assume responsibility for providing daily oversight to the account service and will be present for all BEA/ Blaze meetings unless otherwise agreed to by both parties.
- 5.2 Blaze agrees that it will maintain adequate staffing to provide BEA with responsive and timely service.
- 5.3 Blaze may subcontract services. Proposals that include subcontracting services must include information identifying the subcontractor(s) and demonstrate the subcontractor(s)' qualifications to perform the services, and a letter from the proposed subcontractor(s) stating their intent to subcontract on the project. The prime contractor will be responsible for all services provided by, and obligations of its subcontractor(s). All communications, departmental director, invoices and payments will be processed through the prime contractor. All data generated as a result of this contract is the exclusive property of BEA.
- 5.4 Blaze is not authorized to represent the State's position to the public or media and must be authorized to provide information by BEA.

6. Delivery

- 6.1 If for any reason, Blaze fails to make a delivery date, Blaze will be assessed Liquidated Damages of \$1,000.00 per week, or portion thereof, until the production,

Initials LB
Date 4/16/24

revision or delivery date is met. The Blaze foresees an event beyond its reasonable and normal contract and properly notifies BEA of such event – in writing – BEA may allow the contract to exceed a production, revision or delivery date with no Liquidated Damages assessed.

7. Examination of Records

- 7.1 BEA, upon giving notice to Blaze, may examine all records and files related to its account. Arrangements for such examination must be conducted at Blaze' office and will be scheduled at a time mutually agreeable to the parties involved.

**EXHIBIT C
PAYMENT TERMS**

Blaze will invoice BEA for professional fees at the beginning of each month. Costs associated with special or optional projects and out of pocket expenses will be billed by the 15th of the following month. All outside vendor costs will be billed at cost and copies of all vendor invoices and all out-of-pocket expenses will be included. Total amounts for each category specified below can be adjusted by written agreement between the two parties. Total expenses for all services shall not exceed the total contract award is for **\$1,750,000**, broken down by FY:

- FY2024 \$18,500
- FY2025 \$1,731,500

Blaze will provide a written estimate of work for BEA approval in advance of beginning work on special or optional projects. The estimates will detail the nature of the work and the associated costs. Blaze will adhere to these costs as the estimates, once signed by BEA, form the contract between the two parties. Should there be a change in scope of services to be provided, Blaze will revise the estimate and seek approval from BEA before proceeding. The signed estimate indicates approval to proceed.

Professional fees will be invoiced at the beginning of each month. Itemized monthly invoices are to be submitted by the 15th of the following month. State payment terms are net 30.

Initials JB
Date 7/16/21

STANDARD EXHIBIT D

Drug-Free Workplace

The Grantee (aka "Contractor") identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions agrees to comply with the provisions of Sections 5151-5160 of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D; 41 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), and further agrees to have the Grantee's representative, as identified in Sections 1.11 of the General Provisions execute the following Certification:

Certification Regarding Drug Free Workplace

This certification is required by the regulations implementing Sections 5151-5160 of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D; 41 U.S.C. 701 et seq.). The January 31, 1989, regulations were amended and published as Part II of the May 25, 1990, Federal Register (pages 21681-21691), and require certification by grantees (and by inference, sub-grantees and sub-Grantees), prior to award, that they will maintain a drug-free workplace. Section 3017.630(c) of the regulation provides that a grantee (and by inference, sub-grantees and sub-Grantees) that is a state may elect to make one certification to the Department in each federal fiscal year in lieu of certificates for each grant during the federal fiscal year covered by the certification. The certificate set out below is a material representation of fact upon which reliance is placed when the agency awards the grant. False certification or violation of the certification shall be grounds for suspension of payments, suspension or termination of grants, or government wide suspension or debarment. Grantees using this form should send it to:

Department of Business and Economic Affairs
100 North Main Street, Suite 100
Concord, NH 03301

- (A) The Grantee certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:
- (a) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;
 - (b) Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about—
 - (1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
 - (2) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
 - (3) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
 - (4) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;
 - (c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a);
 - (d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will—
 - (1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
 - (2) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug

statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;

- (e) Notifying the agency in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;
 - (f) Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(2), with respect to any employee who is so convicted—
 - (1) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
 - (2) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, state, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;
 - (g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f).
- (B) The Grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant.

Place of Performance (street address, city, county, State, zip code) (list each location)

106 Lafayette Street, Suite 1B
Falmouth, ME 04096

Check if there are workplaces on file that are not identified here.

<u>Blaze Partners, LLC</u> Contractor Name	Upon Governor & Executive Council Approval through June 30, 2025 Period Covered by this Certification
<u>Jim Hauptman, Managing Partner</u> Name and Title of Authorized Contractor Representative	
 Contractor Representative Signature	<u>4/15/24</u> Date

STANDARD EXHIBIT E
Lobbying

The Grantee (aka "Contractor") identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions agrees to comply with the provisions of Section 319 of Public Law 101-121, Government wide Guidance for New Restrictions on Lobbying, and 31 U.S.C. 1352, and further agrees to have the Grantee's representative, as identified in Sections 1.11 and 1.12 of the General Provisions execute the following Certification:

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

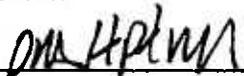
Programs (indicate applicable program covered): Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for New Hampshire Population Projections

Contract Period: Upon Governor & Executive Council Approval through June 30, 2025

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement (and by specific mention sub-grantee or sub-Grantee).
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement (and by specific mention sub-grantee or sub-Grantee), the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying, in accordance with its instructions, attached and identified as Standard Exhibit E-I.
- (3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award document for sub-awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub-grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by Section 1352, Title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.



Contractor Representative Signature

Managing Partner

Contractor Representative Title

Blaze Partners, LLC

Contractor Name

4/15/21
Date

Initials 40 Date 4/15/21 Page 3 of 11

STANDARD EXHIBIT F - Debarment

The Grantee (aka "Contractor") identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions agrees to comply with the provisions of Executive Office of the President, Executive Order 12529 and 45 CFR Part 76 regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters, and further agrees to have the Grantee's representative, as identified in Sections 1.11 and 1.12 of the General Provisions execute the following Certification:

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS - PRIMARY COVERED TRANSACTIONS

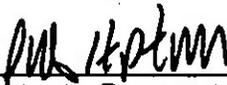
Instructions for Certification

- (1) By signing and submitting this Contract, the Grantee is providing the certification set out below.
- (2) The inability of a person to provide the certification required below will not necessarily result in denial of participation in this covered transaction. If necessary, the Grantee shall submit an explanation of why it cannot provide the certification. The certification or explanation will be considered in connection with the State determination whether to enter into this transaction. However, failure of the Grantee to furnish a certification or an explanation shall disqualify such person from participation in this transaction.
- (3) The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when the State determined to enter into this transaction. If it is later determined that the Grantee knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, State may terminate this transaction for cause or default.
- (4) The Grantee shall provide immediate written notice to State, to whom this Contract is submitted if at any time the Grantee learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
- (5) The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549: 45 CFR Part 76.
- (6) The Grantee agrees by submitting this Contract that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the State.
- (7) The Grantee further agrees by submitting this Contract that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions," provided by State, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
- (8) A Grantee in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of Grantee in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or involuntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A Grantee may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the Non-procurement List (of excluded parties).
- (9) Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a Grantee is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
- (10) Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 6 of these instructions, if a Grantee in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal government, State may terminate this transaction for cause or default.

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER
RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS - PRIMARY COVERED TRANSACTIONS, cont'd**

***Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other
Responsibility Matters - Primary Covered Transactions***

- (1) The Grantee (aka "Contractor") certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
- (a) are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
 - (b) have not within a three-year period preceding this Contract been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or a contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - (c) are not presently indicted for otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1) (b) of this certification; and
 - (d) have not, within a three-year period preceding this Contract, had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.
- (2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this Contract.

	Managing Partner
_____ Contractor Representative Signature	_____ Contractor Representative Title
Blaze Partners, LLC	4/15/24
_____ Contractor Name	_____ Date

STANDARD AGREEMENT EXHIBIT G

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE**

The Contractor identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions agrees by signature of the Contractor's representative as identified in Sections 1.11 and 1.12 of the General Provisions, to execute the following certification:

By signing and submitting this Contract the Contractor agrees to make reasonable efforts to comply with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

	Managing Partner
_____ Contractor Representative Signature	_____ Contractor's Representative Title
Blaze Partners, LLC	4/15/24
_____ Contractor Name	_____ Date

STANDARD EXHIBIT H

CERTIFICATION
Public Law 103-227, Part C
ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE

Public Law 103227, Part C Environmental Tobacco Smoke, also known as the Pro Children Act of 1994, requires that smoking not be permitted in any portion of any indoor facility routinely owned or leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly for provision of health, day care, education, or library services to children under the age of 18, if the services are funded by Federal programs either directly or through State or local governments, by Federal grant, contract, loan, or loan guarantee. The law does not apply to children's services provided in private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or Medicaid funds, and portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to \$1000 per day and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity. By signing and submitting this Contract the Grantee (aka "Contractor") certifies that it will comply with the requirements of the Act.

The Grantee further agrees that it will require the language of this certification be included in any subawards which contain provisions for the children's services and that all subgrantees shall certify accordingly.



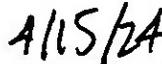
Contractor Representative Signature

Managing Partner

Contractor Representative Title

Blaze Partners, LLC

Contractor Name



Date

STANDARD EXHIBIT I

ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE NONDISCRIMINATION IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED PROGRAMS

OMB Burden Disclosure Statement

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Paperwork Reduction Project (1910-0400), Washington, DC 20503.

Blaze Partners, LLC (hereinafter called the "Grantee" and aka "Contractor") HEREBY AGREES to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Pub. L. 88-352), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, (Pub. L. 92-318, Pub. L. 93-568, and Pub. L. 94-482), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Pub. L. 93-112), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Pub. L. 94-135), Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Pub. L. 90-284). In accordance with the above laws and regulations issued pursuant thereto, the Grantee agrees to assure that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity in which the Grantee receives Federal assistance.

Applicability and Period of Obligation

In the case of any service, financial aid, covered employment, equipment, property, or structure provided, leased, or improved with Federal assistance extended to the Grantee by the State with federal ARPA funds, this assurance obligates the Grantee for the period during which Federal assistance is extended. In the case of any transfer of such service, financial aid, equipment, property, or structure, this assurance obligates the transferee for the period during which Federal assistance is extended. If any personal property is so provided, this assurance obligates the Grantee for the period during which it retains ownership or possession of the property.

Employment Practices

Where a primary objective of the Federal assistance is to provide employment or where the Grantee's employment practices affect the delivery of services in programs or activities resulting from Federal assistance extended by the State, the Grantee agrees not to discriminate on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, in its employment practices. Such employment practices may include, but are not limited to, recruitment, advertising, hiring, layoff or termination, promotion, demotion, transfer, rates of pay, training and participation in upward mobility programs; or other forms of compensation and use of facilities.

Subrecipient Assurance

The Grantee shall require any individual, organization, or other entity with whom it subcontracts, subgrants, or subleases for the purpose of providing any service, financial aid, equipment, property, or structure to comply with laws and regulations cited above. To this end, the subrecipient shall be required to sign a written assurance form; however, the obligation of both recipient and subrecipient to ensure compliance is not relieved by the collection or submission of written assurance forms.

Data Collection and Access to Records

The Grantee agrees to compile and maintain information pertaining to programs or activities developed as a result of the Grantee's receipt of Federal assistance from the State. Such information shall include, but is not limited to the following: (1) the manner in which services are or will be provided and related data necessary for determining whether any persons are or will be denied such services on the basis of

prohibited discrimination; (2) the population eligible to be served by race, color, national origin, sex, age and disability; (3) data regarding covered employment including use or planned use of bilingual public contact employees serving beneficiaries of the program where necessary to permit effective participation by beneficiaries unable to speak or understand English; (4) the location of existing or proposed facilities connected with the program and related information adequate for determining whether the location has or will have the effect of unnecessarily denying access to any person on the basis of prohibited discrimination; and (5) the present or proposed membership by race, color, national origin, sex, age and disability in any planning or advisory body which is an integral part of the program.

The Grantee agrees to submit requested data to the State, the U.S. Department of Treasury or OMB regarding programs and activities developed by the Grantee from the use of ARPA funds extended by the State upon request. Facilities of the Grantee (including the physical plants, buildings, or other structures) and all records, books, accounts, and other sources of information pertinent to the Grantee's compliance with the civil rights laws shall be made available for inspection during normal business hours on request of an officer or employee of the State, the U.S. Department of Treasury or OMB specifically authorized to make such inspections.

This assurance is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal grants, loans, contracts (excluding procurement contracts), property, discounts or other Federal assistance extended after the date hereof, to the Grantee by the State including installment payments on account after such date of application for Federal assistance which are approved before such date. The Grantee recognizes and agrees that such Federal assistance will be extended in reliance upon the representations and agreements made in this assurance, and that the United States shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance. This assurance is binding on the Grantee, the successors, transferees, and assignees, as well as the person(s) whose signatures appear below and who are authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the Grantee.

Grantee Certification

The Grantee certifies that it has complied, or that, within 90 days of the date of the grant, it will comply with all applicable requirements of 10 C.F.R. § 1040.5 (a copy will be furnished to the Grantee upon written request to the State).

	Managing Partner
Contractor Representative Signature	Contractor Representative Title
Blaze Partners, LLC	4/15/24
Contractor Name	Date

**STANDARD EXHIBIT J cont.
CERTIFICATION**

As the Grantee (aka "Contractor") identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions, I certify that the responses to the below listed questions are true and accurate.

1. The DUNS/UEI number for your entity is: _____ JVGERUX1NEK3 _____

2. In your business or organization's preceding completed fiscal year, did your business or organization receive (1) 80 percent or more of your annual gross revenue in U.S. federal contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, sub-grants, and/or cooperative agreements; and (2) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from U.S. federal contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, subgrants, and/or cooperative agreements?

NO YES

**If the answer to #2 above is NO,
stop here**

**If the answer to #2 above is YES, please answer the
following:**

3. Does the public have access to information about the compensation of the executives in your business or organization through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986?

NO YES

**If the answer to #3 above is YES,
stop**

**If the answer to #3 above is NO, please answer the
following:**

4. The names and compensation of the five most highly compensated officers in your business or organization are as follows:

Name _____	Amount: _____

State of New Hampshire

Department of State

CERTIFICATE

I, David M. Scanlan, Secretary of State of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that BLAZE PARTNERS, LLC is a Maine Limited Liability Company registered to transact business in New Hampshire on January 09, 2024. I further certify that all fees and documents required by the Secretary of State's office have been received and is in good standing as far as this office is concerned.

Business ID: 951095

Certificate Number: 0006668815



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,
I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed
the Seal of the State of New Hampshire,
this 15th day of April A.D. 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Scanlan".

David M. Scanlan
Secretary of State

State of Maine



Department of the Secretary of State

I, the Secretary of State of Maine, certify that according to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the State of Maine, the Department of the Secretary of State is the legal custodian of the Great Seal of the State of Maine which is hereunto affixed and of the records of formation, amendment, and cancellation of limited liability companies and annual reports filed by the same.

I further certify that BLAZE PARTNERS, LLC is a duly formed limited liability company under the laws of the State of Maine and that the date of formation is August 21, 2015.

I further certify that said limited liability company has filed annual reports due to this Department, and that no action is now pending by or on behalf of the State of Maine to forfeit the certificate of formation and that according to the records in the Department of the Secretary of State, said limited liability company is a legally existing limited liability company in good standing under the laws of the State of Maine at the present time.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State of Maine to be hereunto affixed, given under my hand at Augusta, Maine, this twenty-fourth day of April 2024.

Shenna Bellows

*Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State*

(Limited partnership, Limited liability professional partnership or LLC)

Certificate of Authority # 3

Limited Partnership or LLC Certification of Authority

I, James Hauptman, hereby certify that I am a duly authorized, Member or
(Name)

Manager and officer of Blaze Partners, LLC a limited liability partnership
(Name of Partnership or LLC)

under RSA 304-B, a limited liability professional partnership under RSA 304-D, or a limited liability company under RSA 304-C.

I certify that I am authorized to bind the partnership or LLC. I further certify that it is understood that the State of New Hampshire will rely on this certificate as evidence that the person listed above currently occupies the position indicated and that they have full authority to bind the partnership or LLC and that this authorization shall remain valid for thirty (30) days from the date of this Corporate Resolution.

DATED: 4/16/24

ATTEST: James Hauptman, managing partner
(Name & Title)

