



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Lori A. Weaver  
Commissioner

Iain N. Watt  
Director

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July 14, 2025

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Pursuant to MOP 1200, I.D., authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, to **retroactively** pay the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) (VC#170491), Bethesda, MD in the amount of \$10,210 for annual membership dues effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval, for the membership period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. 100% General Funds.

Funding is available as follows:

**05-95-90-903010-79660000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, HHS: PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, BUREAU OF LABORATORY SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES**

State Fiscal Year	Class / Account	Job Number	Class Title	Total Amount
2026	026-500251	90059000	Organizational Dues	\$10,210
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$10,210</b>

**EXPLANATION**

This item is **Retroactive** as the Department conducted a review of all active memberships and awaited the finalized State biennium budget.

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) brings together state and local governmental health laboratory employees and constituents to collaborate on best practices to improve the quality and efficiency of laboratory practices, including lab safety, to generate positive local health outcomes. APHL Membership dues cover ten (10) staff memberships, technical training, webinars on critical industry topics, legislative briefings, and participation in relevant committees, such as the Infectious Disease Committee, the Laboratory Systems and Standards Committee, and the Public Health Laboratory System

Database Committee. APHL training, webinars, exercises, and information sharing are critical to keeping State laboratory staff up to date on new methods and techniques in the field of laboratory science. Should this request not be authorized, the Department would not have access to technical training necessary to effectively respond to disease outbreaks, environmental contamination events, and other emergencies requiring lab services.

Listed below are answers to the 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 Health Association formed the Committee of Laboratories in 1899. The organization was renamed the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) in 1998. New Hampshire Public Health Laboratories became a member in 1952.

2. Is there any other organization that provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?

No, the APHL is the only organization that brings together all state public health laboratories in the United States and works to strengthen laboratory systems serving the public's health.

3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?

All other state public health laboratories and some state agricultural, environmental, and other related laboratories are members of this organization. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health (DPH) Public Health Laboratories is the only New Hampshire state agency that is a member as the organization focuses specifically on public health laboratory topics. The Department shares relevant information with other Department and State partners who may benefit, as necessary.

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

The APHL Board of Directors determines the annual dues for States based on population.

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

The benefits received are:

- a. The APHL advocates for non-partisan, national issues of public health and public health laboratory significance. They coordinate with federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide timely briefings to state and local laboratory officials on congressional activities, public health emergencies, and public health issues such as funding for laboratory emergency response and supply chain access to states during infectious disease outbreaks.
- b. APHL provides technical support and assistance with grant applications for timely receipt of federal funds. APHL also provides supplemental funding for some priorities such as funding to implement new molecular testing methods for emerging diseases.
- c. APHL provides workshops and funding for training and national meetings as well as webinar training and exercises for a variety of public health topics including continuity of operation plans, molecular testing, and bioinformatics.

- d. APHL provides opportunities for its members to participate in relevant APHL committees, such as the APHL Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee and the APHL Laboratory Systems and Standards Committee. Staff participation in these committees allows for continuing education and growth in their scientific fields, as well as providing professional networking and collaboration opportunities with fellow committee members.
- e. APHL provides templates for developing new laboratory method validation plans, continuity of operations plans (COOP), and laboratory testing surge plans. APHL offers guidance on laboratory safety and quality guidance as well as fact sheets for laboratory testing related to emerging infectious diseases.

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

Yes, the APHL provides educational webinars at no additional cost to members and supports all travel and training costs associated with technical laboratory-specific educational training and with in-person APHL committee meetings.

7. Is the membership required in order to receive any federal grants or required in order 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.

No, there is no travel included with the membership fee. APHL receives separate funding from federal partners including CDC, FDA, EPA and USDA and provides travel scholarships to member laboratory's employees for attending conferences and participating in training courses.

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.)

- a. Fengxiang Gao, Administrator; Voting Member
- b. Michael Stevenson, Administrator; APHL Laboratory Systems and Standards Committee
- c. Lucio Barinelli, Water Analysis Laboratory Program Manager; APHL Member
- d. Melissa Guenther; Microbiology Program Manager; APHL Member
- e. Christopher Benton; Virology Program Manager; APHL Member
- f. Michelle Day; Environmental Quality Manager; APHL Member
- g. Mamta Dua; LIMS Administrator; APHL Member
- h. Madhumita Chatterjee; Chemistry Program Manager; APHL Member
- i. Maureen Collopy; Select Agent Responsible Official; APHL Member
- j. Paula Arnone; Quality Manager; APHL Member

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

Should this request not be authorized, the Department would not have access to resources provided through the APHL, limiting collaborations and sharing information with federal partners and other state public health laboratories nationally. The Department would not have

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access to APHL's technical training and would be less prepared for emergency response to disease outbreaks, pandemics, and environmental contamination events. APHL training, webinars, exercises and information sharing are critical to keeping laboratory staff up to date on new methods and techniques in the field of laboratory science.

Respectfully Submitted,



for:

Lori A. Weaver  
Commissioner



Association of Public Health Laboratories  
 7700 Wisconsin Avenue  
 Suite 1000  
 Bethesda, MD 20814

**Invoice**  
 467809

**Invoice Date:** 02/10/2025  
**Member ID:** 102  
**Invoice Due:** 07/01/2025

Dr. Fengxiang Gao  
 New Hampshire Public Health Laboratories  
 Division of Public Health Services  
 29 Hazen Drive  
 Concord, NH 03301

Description	Quantity	Rate	Amount
State Institutional Member Dues: 1-2M (7/1/2025 to 6/30/2026)  - Your laboratory is currently using 9 out of 9 complimentary Member-Associate positions. To view or make changes to your laboratory's Member-Associates, please visit the Profile Update feature available at <a href="https://web.aphl.org/portal">https://web.aphl.org/portal</a> .	1	\$10,210.00	\$10,210.00

You can renew your APHL membership online, by mail or EFT/ACH. Please choose one of the following options:

- Renew online by credit card at <https://web.aphl.org/portal>
- EFT/ACH banking information: [https://www.aphl.org/Materials/APHL\\_Wire\\_Information.pdf](https://www.aphl.org/Materials/APHL_Wire_Information.pdf)
- Remit check payment using the cut-off section below

<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$10,210.00</b>
<b>Amount Paid:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Balance Due:</b>	<b>\$10,210.00</b>

If you have any questions or need assistance with renewing your membership, please contact:

- Drew Gaskins, sr. specialist, membership at 240.485.2733 or [drew.gaskins@aphl.org](mailto:drew.gaskins@aphl.org)
- Kristy Albrecht, sr. specialist, membership & marketing at 240.485.2787 or [kristy.albrecht@aphl.org](mailto:kristy.albrecht@aphl.org)

Member ID	Invoice	Date Due	Balance Due	Total Payment Enclosed
102	467809	07/01/2025	\$10,210.00	\$

**Please verify address and provide corrections:**

Dr. Fengxiang Gao  
 New Hampshire Public Health Laboratories  
 Division of Public Health Services  
 29 Hazen Drive  
 Concord, NH 03301

Correct Address

**Make checks payable to:**

Association of Public Health Laboratories  
 Attn: Membership  
 P.O. Box 79117  
 Baltimore, MD 21279-0117

Convenient online payment option at: <https://web.aphl.org/portal>