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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Lori A. Weaver  
Commissioner  
  
Morissa Henn  
Deputy Commissioner

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December 8, 2025

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

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, to enter into an educational tuition agreement and to pay said costs in an amount of \$3,000.00 as follows:

Institution:	Liberty University 1971 University Blvd. Lynchburg, VA 24515
Course Title(s):	Introduction to Pastoral Counseling; Foundational Doctrines for Pastoral Counselors; Spiritual Formation in Pastoral Counseling; Trauma Assessment & Intervention
Course Date(s):	Begin: 01/19/2026 End: 05/15/2026
Employee:	Ian Rice
Funding Source:	05-95-95-953010-56770000-066-500544
Total Cost of Course(s):	\$3,427.00 (block price for one semester of classes, as listed)
State Share:	\$3,000.00
Source of Funds:	Employee Training; 27.49% Federal, 67.95% General, 4.56% Other

### EXPLANATION

This education will benefit the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Ian Rice by improving the overall efficiency of the employee's work in the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). It will enhance Ian's capacity to provide thoughtful, compassionate support to the youth in care at the Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC). Each course emphasizes practical methods for alleviating human suffering and promoting personal growth.

The first course, *Introduction to Pastoral Counseling*, will support the mission of SYSC and the broader DHHS mission by strengthening Ian's ability to promote safety, stability, and emotional wellbeing of youth. By developing foundational counseling skills, such as empathetic listening, values-based guidance, and ethically grounded communication, Ian will be better equipped to de-escalate crises, build trust, and help youth navigate difficult emotions constructively. *Foundational Doctrines for Pastoral Counselors* will help Ian to support youth by strengthening his self-awareness, emotional regulation, and grounding practices, all essential skills for crisis-oriented work. This will improve the quality of Ian's interactions, strengthen his crisis response skills, and support his ongoing development as a compassionate and effective caregiver.

*Spiritual Formation in Pastoral Counseling* will help Ian to cultivate personal resilience, reflective practice, and a calm therapeutic presence. This will directly benefit the mission of SYSC by equipping Ian to contribute to a trauma-centered, supportive, and relational environment for the youth served by DCYF. *Trauma Assessment & Intervention* will provide Ian with more resources to assess traumatized individuals and intervene on their behalf. This course will cover physical and psychological aspects of trauma, which will help Ian to develop compassion and insight into the condition of youth who are suffering.

Completing these courses is part of Ian's pursuit of a master's degree in Pastoral Counseling.

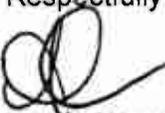
Ian Rice has been employed with DHHS for a little over one (1) year, in the position of 21-1010 Counselor-3 (Youth Counselor) with DCYF. His position within SYSC involves supporting the youth in care, modeling appropriate behavior, directing and monitoring youth movements, enforcing the rules of the center, and maintaining the safety of the facility.

The Department of Health and Human Services encourages and supports employees who wish to further their professional growth through continuing education in disciplines that are mutually advantageous. Successful completion of the courses will add to the overall strength of the Department to perform its mission for the residents of New Hampshire.

This course will not be taken on State time.

Attached is a fully executed Tuition Agreement for your review.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lori A. Weaver  
Commissioner



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
EDUCATIONAL TUITION AGREEMENT

Agreement dated this 19 day of November 2025 by and through the Department of Health and Human Services (hereinafter referred to as the "State") and Ian Rice

(hereinafter referred to as the "Recipient"). The State and the Recipient do hereby mutually agree as follows:

1. The State shall pay to the named institution the sum of \$ 3000.00, which monies shall be used for the purpose of enrolling the Recipient in: Trauma Assessment & Intervention, Intro to Pastoral Counseling, Foundational Doctrines for Pastoral Counseling, Spiritual Formation in Pastoral Counseling (course name),

which course is being offered by: Liberty University

and which course shall commence on January 19 2026 and terminate on May 15 2026.

- The Recipient shall complete and achieve a passing grade in each course named in paragraph 1.
- Should the Recipient fail to complete or achieve a passing grade in each course named in paragraph 1, the Recipient shall pay to the State the sum set forth in paragraph 1, provided, however, that if more than one course is named in paragraph 1, the amount which shall be paid to the State shall be calculated on a pro rata basis.
- Upon the satisfactory completion of the courses named in paragraph 1, the Recipient shall continue in the employ of the State in his/her current position (or in such other position, at equal or greater compensation, to which he/she may be assigned) for a period of six (6) months.
- The Recipient shall work in any area of the State to which he/she may be assigned, provided that such assignment will not constitute a severe hardship to said Recipient.
- Should the Recipient breach any of the conditions set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5, the Recipient shall pay to the State a sum equal to all monies previously paid by the State for the Recipient pursuant to the Agreement, provided, however, that the Recipient shall receive a credit for each month in which he/she is employed by the State subsequent to the date upon which the named course(s) are satisfactorily completed, the value of said credit to be calculated on a pro rata basis.
- The Recipient shall not raise any setoff or counterclaim against the State in any action brought by the State to collect any amount due under this agreement.
- Should any amount be found to be due the State in any action brought against the Recipient pursuant to this Agreement, the State shall, in addition to said amount, be entitled to an award of costs and a reasonable amount in "attorney" fees.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the representatives of the State, in his/her official capacity only, and without personal liability, and the Recipient, have hereunto set their hands on the date first above written.

RECIPIENT

(signature)

(printed name)

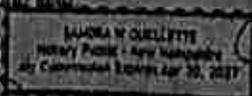
IAN RICE

NOTARY State of New Hampshire, County of Hillsborough

On this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of NW, 2025, before me Sandra N Ouellette the undersigned officer, personally appeared,

Ian Rice (recipient) known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the purposes herein contained.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and official seal

  
Notary Public/Justice of the Peace Signature

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DHHS Commissioner or Designee Signature

(printed name, title) Ann H. Landry, Assoc. Commissioner

(date) 12/18/25