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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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January 9, 2026

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 \$1,482.75 as follows:

Institution:	Southern New Hampshire University 250 North River Road Manchester, NH 03106
Course Title(s):	Women in Leadership
Course Date(s):	Begin: 02/02/2026 End: 04/12/2026
Employee:	Rebecca Lovell
Funding Source:	05-95-95-953010-56770000-066-500544
Total Cost of Course(s):	\$1,482.75
State Share:	\$1,482.75
Source of Funds:	Employee Training; 28.14% Federal, 71.86% General

EXPLANATION

This education will benefit the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Rebecca Lovell by enhancing the employee's leadership skills and ability to mentor and develop staff. It will improve Rebecca's ability to build sustainable stakeholder relationships for the New Hampshire Public Health Laboratories (NH PHL) and develop and deliver on organizational goals. Rebecca will learn professional skills and leadership strategies that will improve her ability to manage people and programs and build the reputation of the NH PHL.

This course, *Women in Leadership*, will provide insights into serving in roles in management and effectively implementing organizational priorities and achieving strategic goals. Professional skill development will focus on networking, mentorship, negotiation, and risk-taking. Completing this course is part of Rebecca's pursuit of a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

Rebecca Lovell has been employed with DHHS for seventeen (17) years, two (2) years in the current position of 19-1020 Biological Scientist-6 (Microbiologist IV) within the Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery, Division of Public Health. In this position, Rebecca is the technical lead for the conventional bioterrorism testing program and is responsible for overseeing and evaluating the work of laboratory scientists, laboratory assistants, and laboratory helpers. Additionally, this employee collaborates with federal agencies and other state laboratories to develop new procedures; assists with writing grant applications including budgets; and develops long and short-term goals and objectives for Arboviral surveillance, while maintaining capacity for emergency response to new threats.

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 17 day of Dec 20 25 by and through the Department of Health and Human Services (hereinafter referred to as the "State) and Rebecca Lovell

(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 \$ 1482.75 , which monies shall be used for the purpose of enrolling the Recipient in: OL-Women in Leadership (course name), which course is being offered by: Southern NH University and which course shall commence on February 2 20 26 and terminate on April 12 20 26 .
2. The Recipient shall complete and achieve a passing grade in each course named in paragraph 1.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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) R Lovell (printed name) Rebecca Lovell

NOTARY State of New Hampshire, County of Merrimack :

On this the 17 day of 12, 2025, before me, Holly Zielonko, the undersigned officer, personally appeared, Rebecca Lovell (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 Holly Zielonko - Notary Public State of New Hampshire My Commission Expires December 7, 2027 Notary Public/Justice of the Peace Signature

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DHHS Commissioner or Designee Signature Christina Santaniello
(printed name, title) Christina Santaniello, Assoc. Commissioner
(date) 12/29/25