



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF LONG TERM SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

Lori A. Weaver
Commissioner

Melissa A. Hardy
Director

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March 6, 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, Division of Long Term Supports and Services, to retroactively pay the Institute for Child Success, Inc. (VC# 570025-B001), Greenville, SC, in the amount of \$5,000 for the Help Me Grow National Membership fee for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, effective upon Governor and Council approval. Funding source: 100% General Funds.

05-95-93-930510-36760000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVS, HHS: DLTSS-DEVELOPMENTAL SVCS, BUR-FAMILY CENTERED SERVICES, SPECIAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Table with 5 columns: State Fiscal Year, Class / Account, Job Number, Class Title, Total Amount. Row 1: 2026, 026-500251, 93051701, Organizational Dues, \$5,000

EXPLANATION

This request is retroactive because the Department did not receive the invoice from the vendor until after the start date of the membership.

Approval of this request will enable the State to maintain membership with Help Me Grow (HMG) National, a network established in 1997 that supports early childhood system integration. New Hampshire joined as an affiliate in 2018 to formalize the long-standing implementation of the HMG model and to access technical assistance and national resources. The Bureau of Family Centered Services (BFCS) holds the sole state-level membership and works closely with other program areas to further this work. The HMG model has served as the foundation for the state's developmental screening, monitoring, and referral process since 2008.

Membership provides access to proven strategies, training, research, and technical assistance that align with federal priorities such as Maternal/Child Health Title V and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C. The annual fee is standard across all states and includes educational resources and technical support. This affiliation strengthens coordination, access, and data-driven decision-making, improving services for families and children. Without membership, New Hampshire would lose access to best practices and information about funding opportunities, which may negatively impact the Departments ability to improve early childhood outcomes.

Listed below are answers to 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 Institute for Child Success started in 2010 and Help Me Grow National began in 1997. New Hampshire joined as an affiliate in 2018.

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

No, Help Me Grow offers a unique model for connecting families to services and improving early childhood systems, and no other organization provides these same benefits.

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

The network includes affiliates in 30 states and Washington, D.C., and the Bureau for Family Centered Services is the only New Hampshire agency that is a member.

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

All states pay the same annual fee, which covers technical assistance, resources, and support for implementing the Help Me Grow model.

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

Membership gives New Hampshire access to proven strategies for early childhood system integration, training, and technical help. It supports the Department's initiatives to strengthen childcare and early learning by connecting Family Resources and Early Supports and Services (ESS) are provided by the Help Me Grow framework which contributes to high quality early care and education. This also aligns with the NH Council for Thriving Children and the DHHS Early Childhood Integration Team by improving coordination, statewide access, and data-driven decision-making.

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

Training modules, guides, research briefs, and technical assistance are included in the membership fee.

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.

Although membership is not required for federal grants, it helps NH meet federal priorities like Title V, IDEA Part C Child Find, and Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) goals. NH includes Help Me Grow in its Title V plan and uses the model for programs funded by the SSBG. Membership strengthens compliance and competitiveness for funding.

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.

Travel costs are not included in the membership fee; however, one to two staff may attend one annual Help Me Grow National Forum with no registration cost.

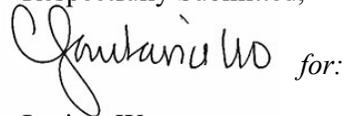
9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.)

Program managers and early childhood leads from the Bureau for Family Centered Services and across the DHHS including Bureau of Child Development and Headstart Collaboration, Maternal and Child Health, Public Health, and Women, Infants & Children participate in network activities, training, and forums.

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

If NH does not maintain membership, the state would lose access to best practices, training, and technical assistance. This has the potential to weaken system coordination, reduce funding opportunities, and slow progress on statewide goals.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori A. Weaver", followed by the word "for:".

Lori A. Weaver
Commissioner

Institute for Child Success, Inc.

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INVOICE

BILL TO
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NH – DHHS
129 Pleasant St
Thayer Building
Concord, NH 03301

INVOICE 2123
DATE 01/01/2026
TERMS Net 30
DUE DATE 01/31/2026

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
2026 Help Me Grow National Membership Fee	5,000.00

SUBTOTAL	5,000.00
TAX	0.00
TOTAL	5,000.00

BALANCE DUE	\$5,000.00