



Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner

Marcella Jordan Bobinsky
Acting Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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June 8, 2016

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to pay the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), 2231 Crystal Ave., Suite 450, Arlington, VA 22202, (Vendor # 168523), \$18,800.00 for the annual membership dues, effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. 50% Federal Funds and 50% General Funds.

Funds are anticipated to be available in the following account for the SFY 2017 upon the availability and continued appropriation of funds in the future operating budget.

05-95-90-900010-51100000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVS, HHS: DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Fiscal Year	Class/Object	Class Title	Job Number	Total Amount
SFY 2017	026/500251	Organizational Dues	90072000	\$18,800.00
			Total	\$18,800.00

EXPLANATION

Funds are requested to pay annual membership dues with ASTHO. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials is the national nonprofit organization representing the state public health agencies. Association of State and Territorial Health Officials has a dual mission: to assist state health departments in the development and implementation of programs and policies to promote health and prevent disease, and to serve as a conduit for the state discussions and policy development with federal partners.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for the Governor and 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?

- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials was incorporated on March 23, 1942 and the Department of Health and Human Services has been associated with this organization since March 1942.
2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?
- No
3. How many other state's belonging to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?
- All 50 States, 6 U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. Yes, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services is the only state agency that is a member of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.
4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials membership dues are population based; there has been no price increase in membership due this year.
5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials provides staff to advocate in Washington, DC for national issues of public health significance. For small states such as New Hampshire that do not have a Washington, DC office, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials legislative staff provide timely briefings to state health officials on congressional activities, and non-partisan advocacy on public health issues such as funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, Immunization, maternal and child health as well as chronic diseases. Given that more than half of the public health operating budget comes from federal sources, the Department's participation with Association of State and Territorial Health Officials is vital to maintain our ability to continue to receive Federal grants and funding for these programs.
 - Association of State and Territorial Health Officials played a key role as a coordinating entity and an information clearinghouse regarding sequestration; thus enabling states to effectively understand and communicate the impacts to their administrations and elected officials.
 - Between 2009-2011 Association of State and Territorial Health Officials played a key role as direct interface between states and the federal government for all H1N1 related activities. They developed a centralized information distribution system that was key to NH's success in responding to the pandemic and assessing lessons learned.
 - During the last couple of years Association of Territorial Health Officials has played a key role in advocating for the inclusion of health promotion and disease prevention concepts and philosophy in the health care discussion at the national level. They have

been instrumental in bringing members of congress and the federal government consolidated information from the states regarding successful implementation of population based approach and its positive impact on quality of health care delivery while controlling costs.

- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials provides technical support and conveys the support from states across the nation.
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials provides technical support and helps NH apply for and obtain private foundation grants that are helping the agency in the development and implementation of its strategic priorities as stated by the NH Public Health Improvement Council.
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials provides resources and technical support to assist the Department in various operational aspects including consultation on financing, organization, and how best to use information technology to achieve programmatic goals at a reasonable cost.
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials provides resources to assist DHHS in responding rapidly to new and emerging issues of regional and national importance, such as Ebola, Zika, H7N9 and the Coronavirus, which has the potential to become the new SARS epidemic. When these issues arise, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials provides coordination between various Federal agencies, and convenes State Health Departments to assure information sharing, streamlined communication, and a coordinated response.
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials serves as a clearinghouse for state public health agencies to confidentially share best practices with each other. Association of State and Territorial Health Officials also serves as a clearinghouse for public health information and statistics.
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials has served as the conduit for the development of a strong partnership between the regional Public Health directors; the group holds weekly conference calls and has regular discussions with the regional federal assignees.

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

- The Division of Public Health Services receives numerous educational and research materials from ASTHO and the cost is included in the membership. Federal grants are received by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials to provide the states with training that far exceeds any training that are provided for at the same state level.

7. Is the membership required 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.

- Yes, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials cover all costs for the Director of the Division of Public Health Services to attend all ASTHO Meetings during the year.

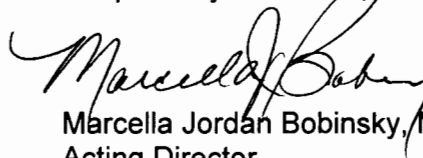
Should Governor and Executive Council not authorize this Request, all of the services provided by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, as detailed above, will not be available to the Department of Health and Human Services here in New Hampshire.

Area served: statewide.

Source of Funds: Source of Funds is 50% Federal Funds from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and 50% General Funds.

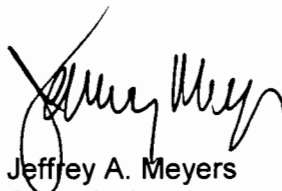
In the event that the Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcella Jordan Bobinsky, MPH
Acting Director

Approved by:



Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner



Association Of State And Territorial Health Officials
2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 450 | Arlington, Virginia 22202
(202) 371-9090 | www.astho.org

June 7, 2016

Marcella Bobinsky
Acting Director
New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Public Health Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 3301

Dear Ms. Bobinsky:

Serving as president of ASTHO is a truly gratifying and rewarding experience. It affords me a unique perspective to learn from and appreciate the collective expertise of my colleagues and to witness the positive influence of the sound public health policy that we generate as a group. ASTHO plays a critical role in organizing our efforts, sharing strategies among states and territories, and assuring that federal and national partners are aware of the achievements of state and territorial health agencies. Our education efforts in Washington, DC are critical because, on average, state health agencies receive 53 percent of their funding from federal sources. One important way to ensure these ongoing efforts continue is to support ASTHO through the remittance of your annual membership dues.

ASTHO provides each of us with valuable and timely information, advice, and support on critically important public health matters. ASTHO's efforts to represent the interests of state and territorial health agencies and the communities we serve pays big dividends for us as members. For example, ASTHO supports state efforts to understand and implement federal laws, such as the Food Safety Modernization Act, the Healthy Hunger Free-Kids Act, and the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act. The aim is to provide expert technical assistance on federal policy in a manner which maximizes health improvements for the population. ASTHO also advises Congress and the Administration about the work state health agencies do, including the work enabled by critical federal funding sources, such as the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, the 317 Immunization program, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreement, and the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

In the past year, ASTHO provided guidance and technical assistance on many emerging issues, including disease outbreaks such as the Zika virus, water safety, accreditation, business operations, and quality improvement. Other notable activities include a 16-state quality improvement collaborative that resulted in measurable increases in hypertension identification and control; opportunities to link public health and healthcare through the ASTHO Supported Integration Forum, which draws on the expertise of current members and alumni; and the ASTHO 2016 President's Challenge to advance health equity and create optimal health for all, which engaged state agencies and federal partners from multiple sectors.

Attached is a document that briefly outlines services that ASTHO provides to you and your agency. Many of these valuable services are only available because of the funding provided through membership dues. I sincerely hope that you give this request your prompt attention and support ASTHO by remitting the enclosed invoice. Please feel free to contact me or Sharon Moffatt, Interim ASTHO Executive Director, with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward P. Ehlinger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward P. Ehlinger, MD, MSPH
President of ASTHO
Commissioner of Health, Minnesota Department of Public Health

Benefits of Membership



Leadership Development for State Health Officials

ASTHO provides educational, training, and leadership development opportunities designed specifically for state and territorial health agency leaders. ASTHO's State Health Leadership Initiative (SHLI) aims to accelerate the leadership development of new state and territorial health officials as policymakers, administrators, and advocates for the health of the public. SHLI includes a site visit from an ASTHO executive, a two-day public policy training in Washington, a one-week case study-based public health leadership program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Additionally, ASTHO and CDC jointly sponsor an orientation and public health training for new state health officials. ASTHO draws on the expertise of current state health officials, ASTHO alumni, and nationally recognized subject matter experts to conduct training.

Support for the State Health Official's Leadership Team

ASTHO supports the development of lead staff at state and territorial agencies through services that include in-person and virtual events, listservs, secure online discussion boards, peer-to-peer mentoring and coaching, and technical assistance. Health agency staff that are supported include:

- Senior Deputies
- State Legislative Liaisons
- Chief Fiscal Officers
- Directors of Public Health Preparedness
- Human Resources and Workforce Development Directors
- Informatics Directors
- Performance Improvement Directors
- Primary Care Officers
- State Environmental Health Directors
- State Tobacco Control Directors

Up-to-Date Communication on State, Regional, and National Emerging Issues

ASTHO continuously conducts situational awareness of local, state, and national issues of concern and provides state health officials with timely updates. As issues are identified, ASTHO works with federal and national partners for accurate information. ASTHO communicates with members on hot topic issues through its State Public Health Weekly newsletter and bimonthly All S/THO Calls and regional calls. Recent examples of timely communication include presentations for members conducted by federal leaders on the national Zika response, providing members an opportunity to offer input, in addition to exploring consequences of the recently announced Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) reprogramming. Importantly, this quick communication provides an opportunity for state health officials to share their experiences, learnings, and recommendations with their colleagues about issues affecting their state. Importantly, this quick communication provides an opportunity for state health officials to share their experiences, learnings, and recommendations with their colleagues about issues affecting their state.

Benefits of Membership



Policy Support

ASTHO provides state health officials with valuable, timely, and accurate information, advice, and support on critically important state and federal public health policy matters. ASTHO supports state efforts to understand and implement federal laws, such as the Food Safety Modernization Act, Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, and Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act. The aim is to provide expert technical assistance on federal policy in a manner which maximizes health improvements for the population. ASTHO also works continuously with policymakers in Congress and the Administration to make sure that state public health voices are heard and remain an integral part of the federal, state, and-local governmental public health system.

Technical Assistance

ASTHO provides technical assistance to members, their leadership teams, and partners on issues of public health policy and practice. In addition to responding to requests from states, territories, and partners, ASTHO proactively assists members with reports, tools, site visits, journal publications, and funding for state and local collaboratives on broad ranging issues, such as accreditation, preparedness, and health reform. Technical assistance provision ranges from phone consultation and development of written reports, to comprehensive site visits by appropriate expert staff, members, or partners.

Sharing of Best Practices Among States and Territories

ASTHO identifies, collects, and shares best and promising public health practices from state and territorial health agencies. ASTHO continuously investigates and reports to members on emerging evidence based practices from the *Community Preventative Services Guide*, *Clinical Preventative Services Guide*, and numerous public health and health systems publications. ASTHO analyzes this information and shares it with states and territories via different modes (e-newsletters, publications, in person meetings, virtual events, etc.). This continuous focus on best and promising practices is used in all aspects of ASTHO's work, with priorities on supporting states in their missions to achieve better health outcomes.



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Marcella Jordan Bobinsky, MPH
Acting Director, Division of Public Health Service
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

INVOICE # 070016 NH **INVOICE DATE: MAY 16, 2016**

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
ASTHO Annual Dues for the Period July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017	\$18,800

INVOICE TOTAL **\$18,800**

Payment Due: June 30, 2016

Tax ID # 35-1044487

DUNS: 10-673-5830