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Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education
Tel. 603-271-3144

Paul Leather
Deputy Commissioner of Education
Tel. 603-271-3801

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, N.H. 03301
FAX 603-271-1953
Citizens Services Line 1-800-339-9900

May 27, 2014

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Education to pay the FY 2015 Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (Vendor code 170661) annual dues in the amount not to exceed \$12,458.00 effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. **100% Federal Funds.**

Funding is available in the account entitled Field Program-Match for FY 14/15:

06-56-56-565510-40200000-026-500251 Organizational Dues \$12,458.00

EXPLANATION

For many years the Director of Vocational Rehabilitation has been an active member of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation. The Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation is composed of the chief administrators of all the public rehabilitation agencies serving persons with physical and mental disabilities in the states, District of Columbia, and the territories. These agencies constitute the state partners in the State-Federal program of rehabilitation services provided under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. The Council provides information, staff training and serves as a resource for the formulation and expression of the collective points of view of state rehabilitation agencies on all issues affecting the provision of quality rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities. Dues are assessed on the federal and state authorization of the Basic Support Program to each State Agency.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

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1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization? 73 Years. NHVR has been a member of CSAVR since 1974/1975.
2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to? No.
3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member? Fifty states plus the territories, the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation is the only member of the organization.
4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.) Formula, based on annual federal appropriation.
5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership? The CSAVR is the only national organization whose sole purpose and function is to represent the State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies in Washington, D.C., before federal agencies; such as the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS), the U.S. Department of Labor, the Social Security Administration that have programs which impact the employment of individuals with disabilities. The CSAVR provides input into federal policy through its relationship OSERS, it serves as the collective voice of the administrators of the Public VR program which has been critical to the development of federal regulations, and policies which guide the 92-year old Program. In addition, when requested, the CSAVR provides information to the U.S. Congress about disability and employment issues as it considers changes, repeal, or innovative solutions to issues addressed in federal law, regulations and policies. For a small state like NH, CSAVR is critical to its ability to have access to complex information in a timely manner, so that the state's voice can be presented.
6. Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail. Yes, materials are no cost; there is cost for meeting registration for the annual spring and fall conferences. However, the training provided at the annual conferences is vital to the administration of the Program. New initiatives, research-based innovations, evidence-based practices, etc. are discussed in detail. As a result of attendance at these annual conferences, NHVR has initiated new programs, the most recent being the collaboration between Keene State College, Special Educators and VR which has resulted in a summer three week internship for Special Educators.
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.

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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 travel monies are included in the dues.
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.) The Director of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation is a voting member, serves on CSAVR committees. The Administrator for Blind Services is also a participant. Other VR staff are included, at the discretion of the Director, as needed.
10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization. There are no negative impacts to the State in being a member of the CSAVR. Two previous State VR Directors served as President of the organization and were critical participants in the leadership of the organization for many years. If the agency were not a member it would be considerably more difficult to have knowledge of the issues, legislation and policies that might affect the customers with disabilities of the agency.

Respectfully submitted,



Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

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INVOICE

**COUNCIL OF STATE ADMINISTRATORS OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
FEDERAL ID# 52-6071153**

1 Research Court, Suite 450
Rockville, Maryland 20850
(301) 519-8023 phone
(866) 322-4434 fax
www.rehabnetwork.org

To:

Lisa K. Hatz
Director
Field Service Administrator
21 S. Fruit Street Suite 20
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

May 8, 2014

Re: FY 2015 CSAVR Membership Dues

DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
Membership in the CSAVR for Fiscal Year 2015 July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015			\$12,458.00
*No portion of these funds support lobbying activities			

Amount Due: \$12,458.00

**Please make check payable to CSAVR and mail to:
P.O. Box 75751, Baltimore, MD 21275-5751**

Should you have any questions regarding this invoice, please contact:
Steve Wooderson at 301/519-8023.