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Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner

Christine M. Brennan  
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
101 Pleasant Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
TEL. (603) 271-3495  
FAX (603) 271-1953

June 21, 2022

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
And the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

#### REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Education, Office of Social and Emotional Wellness, to hold an organized meeting in August 2022, at the Doubletree Hotel in Manchester, NH for a total conference cost not to exceed \$66,655 for the purpose of sponsoring a conference entitled: "NH Choose Love Statewide Conference" effective upon Governor and Council approval through September 30, 2022. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds to support this request are available in the account titled System of Care Grant in FY2023 as follows.

06-56-56-562010- 50600000-102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	<u>FY2023</u>
		\$66,655

#### EXPLANATION

The contract with Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement, Inc. (Choose Love) will allow New Hampshire Department of Education (NHED) to host this state-wide event supporting students, families, educators, communities and will serve to support our children throughout NH. Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement, Inc. will organize and lead a single statewide event that will serve to provide support for all attendees who will gain a deeper understanding and knowledge of the Choose Love principles in order to enhance students social and emotional wellness.

The Choose Love program is now a national nonprofit program based on the original principles of Courage, Gratitude, Forgiveness and Compassion in Action. The Choose Love program is our choice because of the success of the program since it was adopted by Governor Christopher Sununu in 2018. Shannon Desilets, Director of Advocacy for Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement, Inc., will lead this event. Her background as a member of the Association of Traumatic Stress Specialists and specializing in Post-Traumatic Growth led her to represent Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement, Inc. and foster its growth throughout New Hampshire. This movement was born as a proactive and preventative measure to

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disrupt the pathway to violence, to provide skills and tools that enable conflict resolution, to help us with self-management and relationship skills, and to help each and every one of us flourish through the Choose Love formula.

1. This event will celebrate our educators, nurture them, helping to reduce educator fatigue, help to "reset," and bring reinvigoration to them before the 2022/2023 school year.
2. This event will provide an opportunity to bring stakeholders together from communities throughout NH. Educators/school districts can invite community partners (families, businesses, chamber of commerce, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Clubs, Family Resource Centers, early childhood coalitions etc.) for a round table discussion on how the Choose Love program and can be incorporated for the wellbeing of the students and community.

This event will allow for collaboration with other stakeholders, in an effort to support our school communities after the effects of COVID-19. Educators will have the opportunity to share/ask questions with other educators and Choose Love program team members. The community will have the opportunity to come together to bring the Choose Love program and other programs together in an integrated way for their children/youth and communities. This event will be an excellent opportunity to bring in community partners for vendor tables and gain more outreach and collaboration.

Additionally, in collaboration with Plymouth State College's (PSU) TIGERs, a professional theater company comprised of Integrated Arts and School Counseling college students, a Choose Love performance will be created and gifted to all NH music and theater teachers. The performance will be created based on writings from our children about the Choose Love formula and can be utilized throughout the school year.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner of Education

**Scarlett Lewis**

Chief Movement Officer

Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement

m: 203-500-8450 a: PO Box 605, Newtown, CT 06470

w: [chooselovemovement.org](http://chooselovemovement.org) e: [scarlett@jesselewischooselove.org](mailto:scarlett@jesselewischooselove.org)



NH Choose Love Statewide Conference

**choose love™**  
movement



8:30-9 am

Opening, sign-in - registration

Light continental breakfast w/coffee

**9am Welcome Shannon Desilets**

Overview of NH state initiative

Breakout descriptions

**9:20 Scarlett Lewis Introduction**

**10:20 Break (10 minutes)**

**10:30 Breakouts - 30 minutes each x 4 (5-minute break in between)**

(Participants have a choice of attending 2) the others will be recorded and all recordings offered afterwards

Brooklyn Raney - One Trusted Adult

Dr. Chris Kukk - Compassion in Action

Allison Morgan - Choosing Love with Mindfulness

Maria Ortner - Tapping (EFT) and Choose Love

**11:35 -12:15 Presenter TBA Choose Love for Home (5-minute break)**

**12:20 LUNCH (45 minutes allotted)**

**1:05 Breakouts - 30 minutes each x 4 (5 Minute break in between)**

Dr. Steve Ruden - Intro to Havening (trauma technique)

Kate MacKinnon - Compassionate Connection

Kim Harrison & Lisa MacKenzie Choose Love Curriculum deep dive

Carolyn MacGuire - Why Will No one Play With Me?

**2:10 - 30 minutes Julia Richter Choose Love Professional Development**

**2:40 10-minute bathroom break**

**2:50 pm - 30 minutes Presenter TBA Choose Love for Communities and other programming**

**3:20 - 4pm Choose Love Celebration - sharing, Q & A, chance for connection**

Invite & conference room available for community 501(c)3's and other providers throughout the state

**Budget narrative**

<b>2022 NH Choose Love Statewide Conference</b>			
<b>OVERALL COSTS</b>	<b># Needed</b>	<b>Per Item</b>	<b>Total</b>
Conference hosting/event management fees			\$25,000.00
Event Insurance			\$2,000.00
Doubletree Hotel Manchester, NH/Staffing/Event Fees			
Space Rentals			\$7,500.00
Snacks for Attendees/Volunteers/Staff	500	\$3.00	\$1,500.00
Staff: 8 people working one day for \$160.00 each	8	\$160.00	\$1,280.00
DJ/Audio/Visual			\$1,000.00
Supplies			
Notebooks, pens, pencils, etc. for attendees' use at event			\$1,500.00
Classroom/Home/Business Kits: Choose Love Resources for educators, counselors, mental health professionals.	500	\$10.00	\$500.00
Marketing Tools			
Social Media -- Paid advertising to reach target audience			\$500.00
Flyers	500	\$0.50	\$250.00
Brochures	500	\$0.50	\$250.00
Postcards	500	\$0.25	\$125.00
Presenter/Performances Fee Total			
Choose Love performance - presented & created by PSU TIGER			\$8,000.00
Additional Music Performances	3	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
Honoraria for Speakers	8	\$1,500.00	\$12,000.00
Travel/Lodging			
Hotel Fees for speakers and traveling staff	15	\$150.00	\$2,250.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$66,655.00</b>