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Commissioner

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL

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October 30, 2019

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Hospital, to make unencumbered payments, with the vendors included in the table below, to provide ambulance transportation services, in a shared amount not to exceed \$40,000, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval through June 30, 2021. 66% Other Funds (provider fees), 34% General Funds.

Agency Name	Vendor ID	Address
CARE PLUS AMBULANCE	156552	PO Box 2154, Merrimack NH 03054
LIFELINE AMBULANCE	219819	PO Box 56012, Boston MA 02205

Funds are available in the following account for State Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021, with authority to adjust budget line items within the price limitation between state fiscal years through the Budget Office if needed and justified.

**05-95-94-0940010-87500000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVS, HHS: NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL, NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL, ACUTE PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES**

State Fiscal Year	Class/Account	Class Title	Job Number	Total Amount
2020	101-500731	Medical Payments to Providers	94059000	\$20,000
2021	101-500731	Medical Payments to Providers	94059000	\$20,000
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>

### EXPLANATION

The purpose of this request is to provide medical transportation services for patients at New Hampshire Hospital to other healthcare facilities.

Approximately 350 individuals will be served during each State Fiscal Year by medical transportation services.

The medical transportation services will serve New Hampshire Hospital patients who require medical attention that is beyond the array of services offered at New Hampshire Hospital. These cases stem from medical comorbidities (such as frailty), patient self-harm (such as swallowing a foreign body), and other reasons. Many patients at New Hampshire Hospital are either indigent or have their benefits frozen during their admission, which limits the ability of medical transport companies to recover costs through insurance billing.

A Request for Application (RFA) was posted on the Department of Health and Human Services website from 4/17/2019 through 5/16/2019. At the completion of the posting time period, no applications had been received. Upon inquiring with local vendors as to why they did not bid, it was discovered that the reimbursement rates New Hampshire Hospital is permitted to make, pursuant to RSA 126-A:3, III, are deemed too low to support the cost of providing medical transport services. The current rate paid is based on the Medicaid allowable rate, which is considerably less than the current prevailing rate.

This request to make unencumbered payments is to ensure continuity of care is maintained until another Request for Application (RFA) or Request for Proposal (RFP) can be executed to contract for medical transportation. The use of services from any one vendor in this request is uncertain; therefore, one particular vendor may or may not meet the threshold requiring Governor and Executive Council approval as described in DAS MOP 150.

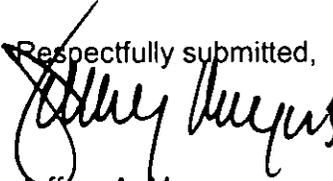
At the Governor & Executive Council discretion, the Department offers to submit an informational item following the close of the fiscal year to confirm the total payments made as a result of this request.

Should the Governor and Executive Council not authorize this request; the Department will be at risk of not being able to transport the patients to the hospital for emergency care and transport patients requiring specialty accommodations to appointments.

Area served: New Hampshire Hospital.

Source of Funds: 66% Other Funds (provider fees), 34% General Funds.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Jeffrey A. Meyers  
Commissioner