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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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Nicholas A. Toumpas
Commissioner

Maggie Bishop
Director

January 23, 2013

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Division for Children, Youth and Families to pay a subscription fee to Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (Vendor #168678 B001) in the amount of \$20,000.00 for an annual subscription, effective April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, to access the Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data service. Funds are available in the following account: *100% FED*

05-95-40-404010-5850 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVCS, HHS: CHILDREN AND YOUTH, FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS, TITLE XX GRANTS - SSBG

<u>Class/Object</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Activity Code</u>	<u>SFY 2013</u>
026-500251	Organizational Dues	40130302	\$20,000.00

EXPLANATION

The above action is requested to enable the Division for Children, Youth and Families access to subscription-based information management tools that will provide the agency with an evidence base to assess its program initiatives and monitor the impact of innovation. The Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data is a partnership of the American Public Human Services Association and Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago. It was established to bring member child welfare agencies cutting-edge information technology for performance management.

The Center's unique database will continue to give the Division a powerful capacity to analyze key child welfare outcomes; compare outcomes for different administrative offices within the state or with other states; trace outcomes from the aggregate to the individual child level; project future service patterns based on historical trends; test the impact of service and policy innovations; set performance goals and monitor progress; link financial decision-making to outcome measures; tell its story to the media and state legislators; and improve the depth and breadth of data reported in the placement section of Benchmark Reports.

Listed below are answer 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?

A: Chapin Hall was established in 2001. The Division has been a member since 2006.

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

A: 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?

A: There are currently 21 jurisdictions nationwide that belong to this organization:

- Arizona
- Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- District of Columbia
- Franklin County, Ohio
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New York
- Oklahoma
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Washington

To our knowledge, DCYF is the sole NH state agency that is a member of Chapin Hall.

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

A: There is a standard fee for the core services (which DCYF subscribes to). If a jurisdiction requests additional services additional charge applies (DCYF does not subscribe to any additional services).

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

A:

- Access to subscription-based information management tools that provide the agency with an evidence base to assess its program initiatives and monitor the impact of innovation. It provides DCYF with an analytical tool that enables the agency to conduct powerful statistical analyses of our data as well as research tool for monitoring outcomes.

- Have optional access to data mining web tools and technical assistance in the strategic use of data for program evaluation, budgeting, policy analysis, and compliance reporting.
- Two times per year (six month intervals), child welfare information from the Bridges case management system (both Child Protection & Juvenile Justice Services) is provided to the Center at a level sufficient enough to follow the placement experiences of children in the foster care system. The Center then consolidates and reconfigures the data into longitudinal data sets (the database), and provides the Division with a copy of the database and user license.

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

A: Chapin Hall offers a variety of online and in-person educational opportunities designed to familiarize agency administrators with the principles of data analysis and their application to continuous quality improvement. They also offer training on how to use their suite of analytic tools and technical assistance in deploying those instruments to answer agencies' specific business questions. Chapin Hall provides Online Continuous Quality Improvement Seminars and Foster Care Data Archive web tool demonstration. All these training opportunities are free for Chapin Hall members. Additionally, as part of the membership the agency receives 5 hours of technical assistance a year.

7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.

A: Membership provides data regarding critical program outcomes that is used to support a number of grant requests for state agencies as well as community partners. Outcome data from this membership is also used to compare state performance on key indicators to national data, as well as for internal quality improvement efforts.

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.

A: No travel is included with this membership fee.

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.

A: There are number of employees that have user accounts and use the data on an ongoing basis, however, none of state agency employees are directly involved with this organization.

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

A: Should the Governor and the Executive Council not approve this request, the Division would be unable to access the most current Child Welfare strategies for performance management and improved outcomes for the children and families of New Hampshire. The agency would not have access to the data regarding critical program outcomes that are used to inform management decisions and continuous quality improvement, as well as support a number of grant requests for state agencies as

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well as community partners. Furthermore, DCYF won't have access to the comparison of state's performance on key indicators to national data.

Subscribing agencies receive: a sophisticated database to track state child welfare outcomes and agency performance over time by utilizing the agency's own case management system data; five hours of technical assistance on installation and use of the database; and access to multi-state data for benchmarking. Subscribing agencies also have optional access to data mining web tools and technical assistance in the strategic use of data for program evaluation, budgeting, policy analysis, and compliance reporting.

For the Division, this means that two times per year (six month intervals), child welfare information from the Bridges case management system will be provided to the Center at a level sufficient enough to follow the placement experiences of children in the foster care system. The Center will then consolidate and reconfigure the data into longitudinal data sets (the database), and will provide the Division with a copy of the database and user license. Through this subscriber relationship, the Division will be able to thoroughly analyze its foster care data. The Division will also be able to compare data to other states at the aggregate level. Similarly, other subscribing states will be able to compare their data with aggregate New Hampshire data. Should the Governor and the Executive Council not approve this request, the Division would be unable to access the most current child welfare strategies for performance management and improved outcomes for the children and families of New Hampshire.

The funds supporting this request are provided by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families through the Social Services Block Grant. These funds are provided to states to enable them to furnish social services best suited to the needs of the individuals residing in the state. There are five stated goals specific to this grant program; this request represents one aspect of the Division's planned effort to meet goals three, four and five. These goals are (respectively): "To prevent neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children and adults;" "To prevent or reduce inappropriate institutional care;" and "To secure admission or referral for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate." By thoroughly analyzing the placement experiences of children in the Division's foster care system longitudinally, the Division will be able to identify what does and does not work well in the current system, and ultimately better serve children that come into contact with the Division in the future.

Geographic Area Served: Statewide

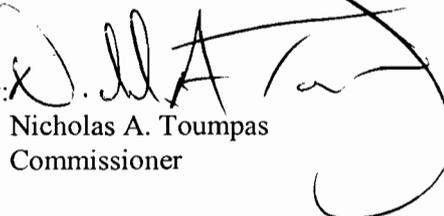
Source of Funds: 100% Federal. In the event that the Federal funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,



Maggie Bishop
Director

Approved by:



Nicholas A. Toumpas
Commissioner

