



USNH State Budget Request (FY24-25)

University System of New Hampshire (USNH)* graduates are critical to the state's workforce and economy. To continue meeting this need and supporting New Hampshire students, USNH is requesting a modest increase in its state appropriation to:

- Expand relationships with the business community to strengthen internship opportunities and increase the number of USNH students entering the NH workforce.
- Invest in financial aid to better retain NH high school graduates and ensure every student can earn a college degree, particularly those NH students most in need.

Background:

- USNH is a leading workforce provider, on average, **2000 USNH graduates join the NH workforce each year**.
 - Relationships with NH employers expose students to opportunities in the Granite State. A non-resident graduate is **twice as likely to stay and work in NH if they complete an internship with a NH firm**.
- Nearly **60% of NH college-bound high school students leave NH** to attend colleges and universities in other states.
- USNH is the largest attractor of potential talent to the state. In the current academic year, **nearly 3,000 first-year students from around the country are attending USNH institutions**, exposing them to employment opportunities in NH.
- NH has the nation's **lowest level of state funding for public higher education**, resulting in higher tuition rates and making it easier for other states to poach our students.
 - If fully funded, the USNH state appropriation will increase to \$95.2 million in FY2024 and \$104.2 million in FY2025, from \$88.5 million currently.
 - USNH received \$100 million in state funding in FY2011 and is the only line item in the state's budget still below pre-Great Recession funding levels.

Additional state support will:

- Expand investments in career service functions to integrate campuses and students into the business community and create more opportunities for students to earn experience with NH employers while in school.
- Maintain investments that have led to five years of flat tuition and increased levels of aid to NH students. These commitments are critical to retaining more NH high school students who seek a post-secondary education.

USNH is a strong steward of public funds:

- Five years of flat tuition, despite rising costs, while providing more than \$250 million in aid to NH students.
- \$50MM reduction in operating expense, FY2019-2022, including an 8.7% reduction in employee compensation.
- Recognized by Moody's Investor Service for strong fiscal management and financial performance despite challenging economic conditions and sector headwinds that have led to the downgrade of the broader sector.

** USNH is comprised of Keene State College, Plymouth State University, and the University of New Hampshire, collectively enrolling 30,000 students. As the state's public university system, USNH is committed to offering high-quality, affordable, and accessible higher education opportunities throughout New Hampshire to address critical state workforce needs.*