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**New Hampshire**  
*Department of Agriculture,  
Markets & Food*

## The New Hampshire Building at the Big E

The New Hampshire Building at the Eastern States Exposition (Big E) is a replica of the Granite State's original State House, which was located in Portsmouth from 1769 until 1809. The New Hampshire Building was built in 1930 on the Exposition's Avenue of States. It was built to showcase New Hampshire's agriculture and commerce to New England fairgoers. Today, all aspects of New Hampshire are featured: agriculture, commerce, tourism, food, culture and the arts. Each of the New England states has its own building along the Big E Avenue of States, offering a unique opportunity to fairgoers to visit all six New England states in a day.

The New Hampshire Building and its immediate property are owned and maintained by the State of New Hampshire. There are three floors in the New Hampshire Building. The ground floor is the public space where exhibits and concessions are located. The second floor holds the building operations office, meeting room and exhibitor only area. The third floor houses sleeping dormitories for exhibitors and staff.

The Big E draws over 1.5 million people each year during its 17-day run. It is estimated that at least 85-90% of all Big E fairgoers visit the state buildings on the Avenue of States each year.

Approximately \$50,000 of revenue is generated every year for New Hampshire from rental fees charged to exhibitors. Most of this income covers building operation expenses generated annually for staff, security, entertainment, general maintenance (lawn maintenance, minor repairs, etc.), equipment purchases (picnic tables, door mats, etc.) and special displays.

The department is committed to encouraging small businesses in New Hampshire, which comprise the majority of New Hampshire Building exhibitors. Surveys have shown that income generated from the Big E represents 25-80% of these exhibitors' annual income. Several exhibitors have grown from their participation at the Big E and "graduated" to bigger opportunities. Another 30 or so New Hampshire businesses are presented in the consignment shop that operates in building every year. This gives more NH businesses sales opportunity and exposure.

The New Hampshire Building operates with four contracted workers and the oversight of the Director of the Division of Agricultural Development. In addition, there are over 150 individuals that volunteer at the New Hampshire Building every year, working for various NH organizations.

## Capital budget Request

### New Hampshire Building at Eastern States Exposition

Brick repointing, 2 end walls of the building:	\$27,300.00
Demolish and replace 2 end wall chimneys:	\$60,480.00
Refurbish 2 "Old Man in the Mountains" decorative medallions:	\$ 8,000.00
Replace rotting trim and siding on building dormers:	\$40,000.00
Demolish old and construct new 3 story fire escape that is out of code:	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
	Tot. \$160,780.00
Architectural/Engineering and DPW fees (at 13%):	\$ 21,000.00

This request is to make repairs to the New Hampshire Building at the Eastern States Exposition grounds in W. Springfield, MA. The state of New Hampshire DAMF owns and manages the property which was built in 1930. The building is a stylized replica of New Hampshire's original statehouse that was constructed in Portsmouth. Each New England state is represented at the fair with a similar building representative of that state. NHDAMF operates the state's presentation at the annual exposition which is a 17-day event that draws over 1.5 million people each year.

- 1) The brick end walls of the building are in need of repointing. A considerable amount of the mortar has disintegrated. \$27,300.00
- 2) Two faux chimneys have also degraded to the point of public safety concerns and need to be reconstructed. \$60,480.00
- 3) Two "Old Man in the Mountains" decorative medallions that date to the time of building construction in 1930, crown the top of each side wall. These medallions need to be refurbished not only to highlight their design, but to protect and preserve them. \$8,000.00
- 4) The wood clapboard siding and trim on the front dormers is showing water damage and rot and needs to be replaced in a manner that preserves the historical appearance of the structure, but ideally is a material that is relatively maintenance free, such as plastic or fiberglass. \$40,000.00
- 5) The fire escape is old and local fire inspection has revealed concerns that it does not meet current safety standards for egress from the second floor of the building. The recommendation is to demolish the old fire escape and construct a new one on the side of the building. \$25,000.00











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