

**Hope Connections, Inc.
Shreveport, Louisiana**

Financial Statements

As of and for the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

Hope Connections, Inc.

Table of Contents

	<u>Page No.</u>
Independent Auditors' Report	1 – 3
Financial Statements	
Statements of Financial Position	4
Statements of Activities	
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023	5
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022	6
Statements of Functional Expenses	
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023	7
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022	8
Statements of Cash Flows	9
Notes to Financial Statements	10 – 16
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	17 – 18
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head	19
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	20 – 21
Report on Compliance for Each Major Program and on Internal Control over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance	22 – 24
Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Finding	25
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs	25 - 26
Summary Schedule of Audit Findings for the Louisiana Legislative Auditor	27
Corrective Action Plan	

COOK & MOREHART

Certified Public Accountants

1215 HAWN AVENUE • SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71107 • P.O. BOX 78240 • SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71137-8240

TRAVIS H. MOREHART, CPA
VICKIE D. CASE, CPA

TELEPHONE (318) 222-5415

FAX (318) 222-5441

STUART L. REEKS, CPA
J. PRESTON DELAUNE, CPA

MEMBER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors
Hope Connections, Inc.
Shreveport, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hope Connections, Inc. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Hope Connections, Inc. (a nonprofit organization) as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Hope Connections, Inc. and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Hope Connections, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of Hope Connections Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Hope Connections, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

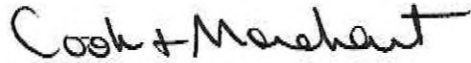
Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying supplemental information schedule shown on page 19 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards, shown on page 17 - 18, as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administration Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 30, 2024, on our consideration of the Hope Connections, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters.

The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Hope Connections, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Hope Connections, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Cook & Morehart
Certified Public Accountants
June 30, 2024

Hope Connections, Inc.
Statements of Financial Position
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Assets	2023	2022
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 58,729	\$ 289,466
Grants receivable	297,511	464,537
Accounts receivable	22,601	12,088
Total current assets	<u>378,841</u>	<u>766,091</u>
Property and equipment:		
Operating lease right-of-use asset, net	24,255	30,603
Depreciable property and equipment, net	801,571	844,730
Non-depreciable property and equipment	2,329,610	1,103,173
Net property and equipment	<u>3,155,436</u>	<u>1,978,506</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 3,534,277</u>	<u>\$ 2,744,597</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 128,355	\$ 149,979
Accrued expenses	29,480	26,741
Refundable advance	29,878	
Line of credit	75,465	335,993
Current portion of operating lease liabilities	12,701	11,356
Total current liabilities	<u>275,879</u>	<u>524,069</u>
Non-current portion of operating lease liabilities	<u>11,554</u>	<u>18,809</u>
Net assets:		
With donor restrictions		77,085
Without donor restrictions	3,246,844	2,124,634
Total net assets	<u>3,246,844</u>	<u>2,201,719</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 3,534,277</u>	<u>\$ 2,744,597</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Hope Connections, Inc.
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Revenues and Other Support:			
Government grants	\$ 2,193,653	\$	\$ 2,193,653
Miscellaneous grants	38,902		38,902
Contributions			
of financial assets	122,570		122,570
Rent revenue	5,700		5,700
Fee for services	110,469		110,469
Miscellaneous revenues	692		692
Release of restrictions	<u>77,085</u>	<u>(77,085)</u>	
Total revenues and other support	<u>2,549,071</u>	<u>(77,085)</u>	<u>2,471,986</u>
Expenses:			
Program services	1,156,641		1,156,641
General administration	<u>270,220</u>		<u>270,220</u>
Total expenses	<u>1,426,861</u>		<u>1,426,861</u>
Changes in net assets	1,122,210	(77,085)	1,045,125
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>2,124,634</u>	<u>77,085</u>	<u>2,201,719</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 3,246,844</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 3,246,844</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Hope Connections, Inc.
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Revenues and Other Support:			
Government grants	\$ 2,172,210	\$	\$ 2,172,210
Miscellaneous grants	32,412	10,186	42,598
Contributions			
of financial assets	92,901		92,901
Fee for services	92,020		92,020
Miscellaneous revenues	<u>4,458</u>		<u>4,458</u>
Total revenues and other support	<u>2,394,001</u>	<u>10,186</u>	<u>2,404,187</u>
Expenses:			
Program services	1,389,448		1,389,448
General administration	<u>167,091</u>		<u>167,091</u>
Total expenses	<u>1,556,539</u>		<u>1,556,539</u>
Changes in net assets	837,462	10,186	847,648
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>1,287,172</u>	<u>66,899</u>	<u>1,354,071</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 2,124,634</u>	<u>\$ 77,085</u>	<u>\$ 2,201,719</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Hope Connections, Inc.
Statement of Functional Expenses
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Program Services								Supporting Services			
	Continuum of Care (HMIS)	Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)	Continuum of Care Planning	Continuum of Care Support (CAP)	Caddo Parish Commission	Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Safe Haven	Emergency Food and Shelter Program	Other Program Services	Total Program	General and Administrative	Total
Salaries	\$ 55,655	\$ 91,478	\$ 123,213	\$ 127,489	\$	\$ 199,259	\$ 52,148	\$	\$ 100,526	\$ 749,768	\$ 124,801	\$ 874,569
Fringe benefits	4,615	27,148	8,963	11,570		17,760	4,072		9,869	83,997	26,127	110,124
Travel and meetings		853	406							1,259	5,004	6,263
Occupancy	1,013	951		1,014		25,620			23,500	52,098	415	52,513
Insurance		11,416				9,823			3,508	24,747		24,747
Telephone	1,484	1,763				1,958			2,563	6,898	25,136	32,034
Vehicle operation		2,913				1,125				4,039	751	4,790
Supplies		293				70	464		3,883	4,710	11,137	15,847
Repairs and maintenance						3,308	1,280		22,882	27,470		27,470
Professional services						1,050	18,425		1,500	20,975	47,906	68,881
Interest expense									28,693	28,693		28,693
Miscellaneous		1,384		82		338			1,096	2,898	14,958	17,856
Client services	10,031				19,913	52,824	3,256	20,000	9,230	115,254	4,304	119,558
Depreciation expense	3,085	5,187	6,131	6,943		9,914	2,595			33,835	9,681	43,516
Total Expenses	\$ 75,883	\$ 143,366	\$ 138,713	\$ 147,098	\$ 19,913	\$ 322,178	\$ 82,240	\$ 20,000	\$ 207,250	\$ 1,156,641	\$ 270,220	\$ 1,426,861

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Hope Connections, Inc.
Statement of Functional Expenses
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Program Services								Supporting Services		
	Continuum of Care (HMIS)	Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)	Continuum of Care Planning	Continuum of Care Support (CAP)	Caddo Parish Commission	Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Safe Haven	Other Program Services	Total Program	General and Administrative	Total
Salaries	\$ 39,777	\$ 106,048	\$ 101,956	\$ 116,226	\$	\$ 426,723	\$	\$ 79,850	\$ 870,580	\$ 21,064	\$ 891,644
Fringe benefits	7,166	11,046	15,658	10,448		42,191		6,603	93,112	13,098	106,210
Travel and meetings	5,308	1,190				1,598		2,372	10,468	12,660	23,128
Occupancy						21,741		447	22,188	17,521	39,709
Insurance		10,001				9,588			19,589	1,677	21,266
Telephone	1,293	3,070						3,029	7,392	14,072	21,464
Vehicle operation		7,168				3,824			10,992	1,139	12,131
Supplies	831	3,773		831		675		831	6,941	9,043	15,984
Repairs and maintenance					39	648		13,414	14,101	16,273	30,374
Professional services						70,450	34,660		105,110	50,095	155,205
Interest expense							11,437		11,437		11,437
Miscellaneous	48	1,476							1,524	4,652	6,176
Client services	16,076			80	22,642	120,295		16,473	175,566	4,310	179,876
Depreciation expense	2,808	7,487	7,198	8,205		14,750			40,448	1,487	41,935
Total Expenses	\$ 73,307	\$ 151,259	\$ 124,812	\$ 135,790	\$ 22,681	\$ 712,483	\$ 46,097	\$ 123,019	\$ 1,389,448	\$ 167,081	\$ 1,556,539

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Hope Connections, Inc.
Statements of Cash Flows
For the Years Ended December 31, 2023, and 2022

	2023	2022
Operating Activities		
Change in net assets	\$ 1,045,125	\$ 847,648
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation	43,516	41,935
(Increase) decrease in operating assets:		
Grants receivable	167,026	(60,985)
Accounts receivable	(10,513)	1,821
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities:		
Accounts payable	4,205	(43,509)
Accrued expenses	2,739	(1,959)
Repayments of operating lease liabilities	81	(7,874)
Refundable advance	29,878	
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,282,057	777,077
Investing Activities		
Payments for property and equipment	(1,252,266)	(822,784)
Net cash (used in) investing activities	(1,252,266)	(822,784)
Financing Activities		
Proceeds from line of credit	283,472	284,399
Repayments of line of credit	(544,000)	
Net cash provided by(used in) financing activities	(260,528)	284,399
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(230,737)	238,692
Cash as of beginning of year	289,466	50,774
Cash as of end of year	\$ 58,729	\$ 289,466
Acquisition of property		
Cost of property and equipment	\$ 1,352,830	\$ 949,177
Trade account payable	(100,564)	(126,393)
Cash down payment for property and equipment	\$ 1,252,266	\$ 822,784
Supplemental disclosures:		
Cash paid for interest	\$ 28,693	\$ 11,437

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Hope Connections, Inc.
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Nature of Activities

Hope Connections, Inc., (HOPE) is a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Louisiana. HOPE is governed by a board of directors composed of 8 members. HOPE was established to help meet the housing and service needs of the homeless in Northwest Louisiana and help transition them to self-sufficiency. The following programs, with their approximate percentage of total revenues for the year ended December 31, 2023, indicated, are administered by HOPE:

Continuum of Care Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) (2%) - Provides administrative support, national reporting, and regional training for the Homeless Management Information System that is used by all homeless programs in Northwest Louisiana. Funding is provided by federal funds from the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) (4%) – Provides street outreach to those experiencing homelessness that live in camps, abandoned buildings, cars, etc. in an attempt to get them connected to housing and services. Funding is provided by federal funds passed through the Northwest Louisiana Human Service District.

Continuum of Care Planning Activities (Planning) (4%) - Provides regional administrative support, project monitoring, and grants management for the HUD Continuum of Care program and homeless system in Northwest Louisiana. Funding is provided by federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Continuum of Care Supportive Services (CAP) (5%) – Provides assessments, document collection, data entry, and housing referrals for those experiencing homelessness in Northwest Louisiana. Funding is provided by federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Caddo Parish (1%) - Provides funding for relocation assistance. Funding is provided from the Caddo Parish Commission.

Community Development Block Grant (54%) - Provides funds for construction for HOPE's Safe Haven Shelter. Funding is provided by federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development passed through the Louisiana Housing Corporation and the City of Shreveport.

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) (12%) - Provides additional funding for HMIS and direct services for those experiencing homelessness such as Safe Haven Shelter operations, Day Shelter operations, and Street Outreach. ESG funding is provided by federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, passed through the City of Shreveport and the Louisiana Housing Corporation. Additional funding was also provided by federal funds through the CARES Act, also passed through the City of Shreveport and Louisiana Housing Corporation.

Other Program Services (18%) – Provides payment of necessary agency expenses not specifically attributable to a grant/contract operated by the agency. Funding is provided by various donations and fees for services.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of HOPE have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

(Continued)

Hope Connections, Inc.
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022
(Continued)

C. Basis of Presentation

Financial statement presentation follows the recommendations of the Financial Accounting Standards Board in its Statement of Financial Accounting Standards. Under those standards, the Organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets:

Net assets without donor restrictions: Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objective of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of HOPE's management and the board of directors.

Net assets with donor restrictions: Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of HOPE or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, whereby the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statement of activities. HOPE has adopted a policy to classify donor restricted contributions as without donor restrictions to the extent that donor restrictions were met in the year the contribution was received.

D. Income Tax Status

HOPE is a tax-exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and therefore, is not subject to income taxes. However, income from certain activities not directly related to HOPE's tax-exempt purpose is subject to taxation as unrelated business income. HOPE had no such income for this audit period. The Organization's Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 are subject to examination by the IRS, generally three years after they were filed.

E. Use of Estimates

Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing financial statements. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities and the reported revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

F. Cash and Cash Equivalents

HOPE's cash, as stated for cash flow purposes, consists of interest bearing and non-interest bearing bank accounts. HOPE has no other assets that are considered cash equivalents.

G. Functional Allocation of Expense

The costs of providing the various programs and activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities and the statement of functional expenses. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited. Costs are directly charged to the function they benefit. Facility related and supportive services expenses are allocated to each function based upon management's equitable determination.

(Continued)

Hope Connections, Inc.
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022
(Continued)

H. Property and Equipment

All acquisitions of property and equipment in excess of \$5,000 and all expenditures for repairs, maintenance, renewals, and betterments that materially prolong the useful lives of assets are capitalized. Property and equipment are carried at cost or, if donated, at the approximate fair value at the date of donation. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of each asset. The State of Louisiana and the federal government have a reversionary interest in property purchased with state and federal funds. Its disposition as well as the ownership of any proceeds there from is subject to state and federal regulations.

I. Contributions

Contributions received are recorded as increase in net assets without donor restrictions or net assets with donor restrictions depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions. When restrictions expire (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. In the absence of donor restrictions to the contrary, restrictions on contributions of property or equipment or on assets restricted to acquiring property or equipment expire when the property or equipment is placed in service.

J. Compensated Absences

Full-time employees receive a set amount of paid time off (PTO) determined by longevity. Unused PTO does not carry over to the next year and is not paid at separation. Thus, for the year ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, there were no employee leave benefits requiring recognition.

(2) Concentrations of Credit Risk

Financial instruments that potentially subject HOPE to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of temporary cash investments, accounts receivable, and grants receivable. Concentrations of credit risk with respect to accounts receivable are limited due to these amounts being due from coalition member agencies – fee for services arrangements. Concentrations of credit risk with respect to grants receivable are limited due to these amounts being due from governmental agencies under contractual terms. HOPE maintains cash balances at several financial institutions. Accounts at each institution are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to certain limits. At December 31, 2023, total cash balances held at financial institutions was \$75,067, of which all was secured by FDIC. At December 31, 2022, total cash balances held at financial institutions was \$282,864, of which \$250,000 was secured by FDIC, and the remaining \$32,864, was unsecured.

(3) Grants Receivable

Various funding sources provide reimbursement of allowable costs and payment on units of service in connection with providing services under contracts or agreements. This balance represents amounts due from funding sources at December 31, 2023 and 2022, but received after those dates. Management has determined that the allowance for bad debts is not material.

(Continued)

Hope Connections, Inc.
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022
(Continued)

(4) Property and Equipment

Property and equipment consisted of the following at December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	Estimated Depreciable Life	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Land	n/a	\$ 41,202	\$ 41,202
Construction in process	n/a	2,288,408	1,061,971
Buildings and improvements	20–30 years	1,107,637	1,107,637
Vehicles	5 years	51,211	51,211
Furniture and fixtures	5–7 years	38,004	38,004
Equipment	5–7 years	28,819	28,819
Accumulated depreciation		<u>(424,100)</u>	<u>(380,941)</u>
Net investment in property and equipment		<u>\$ 3,131,181</u>	<u>\$1,947,903</u>

Depreciation expense for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$43,516 and \$41,935, respectively.

(5) Contractual Revenue – Grants

During the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, HOPE received contractual revenue from federal and state grants in the amount of \$2,193,653 and \$2,172,210, respectively. The continued existence of these funds is based on annual contract renewals with various funding sources.

(6) Accrued Expenses

Accrued expenses at December 31, 2023 and 2022 consisted of the following:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Accrued salaries	\$ 21,334	\$ 19,786
Payroll related benefits	8,146	6,955
	<u>\$ 29,480</u>	<u>\$ 26,741</u>

(Continued)

Hope Connections, Inc.
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022
(Continued)

(7) Liquidity and Availability of Financial Assets

HOPE monitors its liquidity so that it is able to meet its operating needs and other contractual commitments while maximizing the investment of its excess operating cash. HOPE has the following financial assets that could readily be made available within one year of the balance sheet to fund expenses without limitations:

Financial assets at year-end:	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 58,729	\$ 289,466
Grant and accounts receivables	<u>320,112</u>	<u>476,625</u>
Total financial assets	378,841	766,091
Less amounts not available to be used within one year:		
Net assets with donor restrictions	<u> </u>	<u>(77,085)</u>
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	<u>\$ 378,841</u>	<u>\$ 689,006</u>

In addition to financial assets available to meet general expenditures over the coming year, HOPE operates with a balanced budget and anticipates covering its general expenditures using the income generated from contractual agreements with governmental agencies and contributions. The Statement of Cash Flows identifies the sources and uses of HOPE's cash and shows positive cash generated by operations of \$1,282,057 for fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, and positive cash generated by operations of \$777,077 for fiscal year ending December 31, 2022. Hope also has a line of credit in the amount of \$200,000, which can be drawn upon if needed.

(8) Net Assets

Net assets at December 31, 2023 and 2022, consisted of the following:

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions:	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Undesignated	\$ 216,227	\$ 302,686
Net investment in property and equipment	<u>3,030,617</u>	<u>1,821,948</u>
Total net assets without donor restrictions	<u>3,246,844</u>	<u>2,124,634</u>
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions:		
Restricted for safe haven shelter	<u> </u>	<u>77,085</u>
Total net assets with donor restrictions	<u> </u>	<u>77,085</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$3,246,844</u>	<u>\$ 2,201,719</u>

(Continued)

Hope Connections, Inc.
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022
(Continued)

(9) Right-of-Use Operating Leases

Hope leases certain equipment under operating leases. The leases expire at various dates through 2026. The risk-free discount rate with a period comparable with that of the individual lease term was used which range from 1.04% to 4.45%.

The right-of-use operating assets and lease liabilities at December 31, 2023, and 2022, are as follows:

	2023	2022
Lease Assets		
Operating lease right-of-use assets	<u>\$ 24,255</u>	<u>\$ 30,603</u>
Lease Liabilities		
Operating lease liabilities at December 31	\$ 24,255	\$ 30,165
Less current portion	<u>(12,701)</u>	<u>(11,356)</u>
Operating lease liabilities	<u>\$ 11,554</u>	<u>\$ 18,809</u>

Total lease costs for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, are as follows:

Operating lease costs	<u>\$ 12,134</u>	<u>\$ 8,244</u>
Weighted-average remaining lease term – months	<u>16</u>	<u>32</u>
Weighted-average discount rate	<u>2.93%</u>	<u>2.35%</u>

Future minimum payments required under operating leases that have an initial or remaining non-cancelable lease term in excess of one year are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Principle	Interest	Total
2024	\$ 12,701	\$ 546	\$ 13,247
2025	9,344	205	9,549
2026	2,210	46	2,256
Total	<u>\$ 24,255</u>	<u>\$ 797</u>	<u>\$ 25,052</u>

(Continued)

Hope Connections, Inc.
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022
(Continued)

(10) Line of Credit

In January of 2021, Hope obtained a line of credit in the amount of \$175,000; the line of credit was subsequently increased to \$300,000 in August of 2021 and increased again in September 2022 to \$500,000. The line of credit was to be used for construction of a new Safe Haven Shelter. The line of credit had a variable interest rate based upon the Wall Street Journal Prime Rate, which was 4.00% at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The balance on the line of credit as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$75,465, and \$335,993, respectively. The line of credit was renewed on May 31, 2024, in the amount of \$200,000, with a variable interest rate based upon Wal Street Journal Prime Rate, which was 8.5% at renewal. The line of credit has a maturity date of May 31, 2025. The line of credit is secured by certain real estate owned by HOPE.

Interest expense incurred on the line of credit for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$28,693 and \$11,437, respectively.

(11) Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through June 30, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

(12) Refundable Advance

Hope records federal funds received in excess of expenditures as a refundable advance until they are expended for the purpose of the contract or until the funds are returned to the appropriate funding source.

Hope Connections, Inc.
Shreveport, Louisiana
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Federal Grantor / Pass-Through Grantor / Program Title	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Project Number	Passed Through to Subrecipients	Expenditures
<u>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</u>				
Direct Programs:				
Continuum of Care Program - Supportive Services	14.267	LA0043L6H022215 & LA0043L6H022114	\$	\$ 140,085
Continuum of Care Program - Planning Activities	14.267	LA0371L6H022100 & LA0387L6H022200		120,748
Continuum of Care Program - Homeless Management Information System	14.267	LA0248L6H022106 & LA0248L6H022207		70,499
Passed through the City of Shreveport				
Emergency Solutions Grant Program	14.231	Unknown		99,030
Community Development Block Grant	14.228	Unknown		368,122
Covid -19 Emergency Solutions Grant Program	14.231	2023-ESG-CV-002		10,000
Community Development Block Grant - Entitlement Grants Cluster				
Passed through the City of Shreveport				
Community Development Block Grant - Entitlement Grant	14.218	Unknown		60,000
Total Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Cluster				60,000
Passed through the Louisiana Housing Corporation				
Emergency Solutions Grant Program	14.231	Unknown		199,754
Emergency Solutions Grant Program	14.231	Unknown		10,000
Community Development Block Grant	14.228	Unknown		916,260
Housing Voucher Cluster:				
Passed through the Louisiana Housing Corporation				
Emergency Housing Vouchers	14.871	Unknown		3,847
Total Housing Voucher Cluster				3,847
Total U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development				
				1,998,345
<u>U.S. Department of Homeland Security</u>				
Emergency Food and Shelter	97.024	356400-029		20,000
<u>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</u>				
Passed through the Northwest Louisiana Human Services District				
Emergency Food Assistance Program				
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)	93.150	Unknown		103,093
Total U.S. Department of Health and Human Services				
				103,093
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards				
			\$	\$ 2,121,438

See accompanying notes to the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

Hope Connections, Inc.
Shreveport, Louisiana
Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note A: Basis of Presentation

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Hope Connections Inc., under programs of the federal government for the year ended December 31, 2023. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Hope Connections Inc., it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net assets, or cash flows of Hope Connections Inc.

Note B: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

- (1) Hope Connections Inc. does not utilize an indirect cost rate.
- (2) Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

Hope Connections, Inc.
Shreveport, Louisiana
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Agency Head: Christa Pazzaglia, Chief Executive Officer

The following payments were made from public funds:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary	\$ 68,068
Travel	406

COOK & MOREHART

Certified Public Accountants

1215 HAWN AVENUE • SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71107 • P.O. BOX 78240 • SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71137-8240

TRAVIS H. MOREHART, CPA
VICKIE D. CASE, CPA

TELEPHONE (318) 222-5415

FAX (318) 222-5441

STUART L. REEKS, CPA
J. PRESTON DELAUNE, CPA

MEMBER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance
And Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed
in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors
Hope Connections, Inc.
Shreveport, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of Hope Connections, Inc., (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2023, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 30, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Hope Connections, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Hope Connections, Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Hope Connections, Inc.'s internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

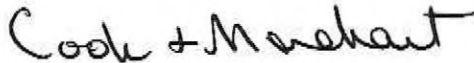
Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 2023-001, that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Hope Connections, Inc.'s financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the organization's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Cook & Morehart
Certified Public Accountants
June 30, 2024

COOK & MOREHART

Certified Public Accountants

1215 HAWN AVENUE • SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71107 • P.O. BOX 78240 • SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71137-8240

TRAVIS H. MOREHART, CPA
VICKIE D. CASE, CPA

TELEPHONE (318) 222-5415 FAX (318) 222-5441

STUART L. REEKS, CPA
J. PRESTON DELAUNE, CPA

MEMBER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Report on Compliance for Each Major Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required By the Uniform Guidance

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors
Hope Connections, Inc.
Shreveport, Louisiana

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Hope Connections, Inc.'s compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Hope Connections, Inc.'s major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2023. Hope Connections, Inc.'s major federal program is identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, Hope Connections, Inc. complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of Hope Connections, Inc. and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of Hope Connections, Inc.'s compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to Hope Connections, Inc.'s federal programs.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on Hope Connections, Inc.'s compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about Hope Connections, Inc.'s compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding Hope Connections, Inc.'s compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of Hope Connections, Inc.'s internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Hope Connections, Inc.'s internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

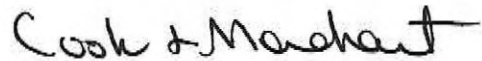
Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However,

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.



Cook & Morehart
Certified Public Accountants
June 30, 2024

Hope Connections, Inc.
 Shreveport, Louisiana
 Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
 December 31, 2023

There were no findings for the prior year audit for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
 December 31, 2023

A. Summary of Audit Results

Financial Statements

Type of audit report issued : Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting :

Material weaknesses identified :	<u> </u> yes	<u> v </u> no
Significant deficiencies identified :	<u> v </u> yes	<u> </u> none reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted :

 yes v no

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs :

Material weaknesses identified :	<u> </u> yes	<u> v </u> no
Significant deficiencies identified :	<u> </u> yes	<u> v </u> none reported

Type of auditors' report issued on compliance for major federal programs : Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR section 200.516(a)

 yes v no

Identification of major federal programs :

Community Development Block Grant - Assistance Listing #14.228

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs : \$750,000

Auditee qualified as low risk :

 v yes no

(Continued)

Hope Connections, Inc.
Shreveport, Louisiana
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
December 31, 2023
(Continued)

B. Findings – Financial Statements Audit:

2023-001 Significant Deficiency – Timely Payment of Certain Payroll Taxes

Condition: Certain payroll taxes due as of December 31, 2023, were not paid timely.

Criteria: Payroll taxes should be filed by the required due dates.

Cause: Hope Connections, Inc. was experiencing cash flow difficulties and did not have sufficient funds on hand at the time to pay the payroll taxes due.

Effect: Penalties and interest will be incurred on the payroll taxes which were not remitted timely.

Recommendation: We recommend that all payroll taxes due be remitted timely in the future. We further recommend that management develop plans for monitoring the agency's budget and spending to ensure sufficient funds are on hand for payment of all payroll taxes due.

Views of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Actions: Effective June 26, 2024, all payroll taxes have been remitted. Hope Connections, Inc. will implement procedures for ensuring that all future payroll taxes due are remitted timely. New funding sources have been secured, and we will be monitoring our budgets on a monthly basis to ensure sufficient funds are on hand for payment of all payroll taxes due.

C. Findings and Questioned Costs – Major Federal Award Programs Audit: None

Hope Connections, Inc.
Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
Schedule for the Louisiana Legislative Auditor
December 31, 2023

There were no findings or questioned costs for the prior year audit period ended December 31, 2022.

Corrective Action Plan for Current Year Audit Findings
Schedule for the Louisiana Legislative Auditor
December 31, 2023

There is one finding for the current year audit period ended December 31, 2023, as described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 2023-001.



CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

June 30, 2024

Hope Connections, Inc. respectfully submits the following corrective action plan for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Name and address of independent public accounting firm:

Cook & Morehart, CPAs
1215 Hawn Ave
Shreveport, LA 71107

Audit period: Year ended December 31, 2023

The finding from the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs is discussed below. The finding is numbered consistently with the number assigned in the schedule.

FINDING – FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT

2023-001 Significant Deficiency – Timely Payment of Certain Payroll Taxes

Recommendation: We recommend that all payroll taxes due be remitted timely in the future. We further recommend that management develop plans for monitoring the agency's budget and spending to ensure sufficient funds are on hand for payment of all payroll taxes due.

Planned Corrective Actions: Effective June 26, 2024, all payroll taxes have been remitted. Hope Connections, Inc. will implement procedures for ensuring that all future payroll taxes due are remitted timely. New funding sources have been secured, and we will be monitoring our budgets on a monthly basis to ensure sufficient funds are on hand for payment of all payroll taxes due.

If additional information is needed, please contact me at (318) 670-4591.

Sincerely,


Christa Pazzaglia
Executive Director

COOK & MOREHART

Certified Public Accountants

1215 HAWN AVENUE • SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71107 • P.O. BOX 78240 • SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71137-8240

TRAVIS H. MOREHART, CPA
VICKIE D. CASE, CPA

TELEPHONE (318) 222-5415

FAX (318) 222-5441

STUART L. REEKS, CPA
J. PRESTON DELAUNE, CPA

MEMBER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

To the Board of Directors
Hope Connections, Inc.
Shreveport, Louisiana
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Hope Connections, Inc.'s management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

Hope Connections, Inc. has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

1) Written Policies and Procedures

- A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:
- i. **Budgeting**, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
 - ii. **Purchasing**, including (1) how purchases are initiated, (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list, (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders, (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law, and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
 - iii. **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
 - iv. **Receipts/Collections**, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff

procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).

- v. **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee rates of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
- vi. **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
- vii. **Travel and Expense Reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
- viii. **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
- ix. **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
- x. **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
- xi. **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
- xii. **Prevention of Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

Procedures performed. No exceptions noted.

2) Board or Finance Committee

- A. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and
 - i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
 - ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. *Alternatively, for those entities reporting on the not-for-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or*

included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.

- iii. For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.
- iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

Procedures performed. No exceptions noted.

3) Bank Reconciliations

- A. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:
 - i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);
 - ii. Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and
 - iii. Management has documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Procedures performed. No exceptions noted.

4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

- A. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).
- B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (e.g., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if there are no written policies or procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that
 - i. Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers;
 - ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit;
 - iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit; and

- iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions, is (are) not also responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.
- C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was in force during the fiscal period.
- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternatively, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:
 - i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
 - ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
 - iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
 - iv. Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
 - v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

Procedures performed. No exceptions noted.

5) *Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases/payments, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)*

- A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).
- B. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that
 - i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase;
 - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;
 - iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files;
 - iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and
 - v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.

- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and
- i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and
 - ii. Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.
- D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

Procedures performed. No exceptions noted.

6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/P-Cards

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.
- B. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement). Obtain supporting documentation, and
- i. Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved) by someone other than the authorized card holder (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials, such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported); and
 - ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.
- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #7B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (e.g., each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

Procedures performed. Noted the following exception:

Exception: Monthly credit card statements were not approved in writing by someone other than the authorized card holder.

7) *Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)*

A. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements and obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected

- i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov);
- ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;
- iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policies and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and
- iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

Procedures performed. No exceptions noted.

8) *Contracts*

A. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternatively, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list.* Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and

- i. Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law;
- ii. Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter);
- iii. If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, the documented approval); and
- iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

Procedures performed. No exceptions noted.

9) Payroll and Personnel

- A. Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.
- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and
 - i. Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);
 - ii. Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;
 - iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and
 - iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.
- C. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials and obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee's or official's cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee's or official's authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.
- D. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

Procedures performed. No exceptions noted.

10) Ethics

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A obtain ethics documentation from management, and
 - i. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates that each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170; and
 - ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.
- B. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

Not applicable to Not-For-Profits.

11) Debt Service

- A. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution.
- B. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

Not applicable for not-for-profits

12) Fraud Notice

- A. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled as required by R.S. 24:523.

Management provided representation that there were no misappropriations of public funds or assets during the fiscal year.

- B. Observe that the entity has posted on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

Procedures performed. No exceptions noted.

13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

- A. Perform the following procedures, verbally discuss the results with management, and report "We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management."
 - i. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.
 - ii. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.
 - iii. Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.

- B. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.
- C. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedures #9A, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency's information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267. The requirements are as follows:
 - 1. Hired before June 9, 2020 – Completed the training; and
 - 2. Hired on or after June 9, 2020 – Completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

We performed the procedures and discussed the results with management.

14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.
- B. Observe that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).
- C. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe that the report includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:
 - i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
 - ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
 - iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
 - iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
 - v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

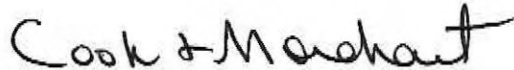
Not applicable to Not-For-Profits.

We were engaged by Hope Connections, Inc., to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of Hope Connections, Inc., and to meet our other ethical responsibilities,

in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.



Cook & Morehart
Certified Public Accountants
June 30, 2024



June 30, 2024

Cook & Morehart, CPAs
1215 Hawn Ave
Shreveport, LA 71107

Hope Connections submits the following responses to the exceptions identified in the Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures Report for the year ended December 31, 2023:

Exception: Monthly credit card statements were not reviewed and approved by someone other than the authorized card holder.

Response: Hope Connections will implement procedures to ensure that monthly credit card statements are reviewed and approved by someone other than the authorized card holder.

Sincerely,


Christa Pazzaglia
Chief Executive Officer