

Development Authority of the North Country Governance Policies

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SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

A. Welcome to the Development Authority of the North Country

An interesting and challenging experience awaits you as an employee of the Development Authority of the North Country (Authority). To answer some of the questions you may have concerning the Authority and its policies, we have written this Personnel Policy. Its purpose is to establish guidelines for fair, consistent and legal treatment of Authority employees. Please read it thoroughly and retain it for future reference. The Personnel Policy is subject to change at the sole discretion of the Authority and supersede any prior written or unwritten policies. The Personnel Policy may also be modified, as deemed necessary, to accommodate individual employment circumstances. From time to time, you may receive updated information concerning changes in the policy. Should you have any questions regarding any policies, please ask your supervisor.

The purpose of this Personnel Policy is to provide a general guide to the Authority's policies, programs, and benefits. As with all Authority communications, this Personnel Policy is provided to employees for their general information. This Personnel Policy does not include all the information employees will need during the course of their employment; therefore, employees are encouraged to contact their supervisors for additional information when necessary, and to review other Authority policies and procedures as applicable.

This Personnel Policy is not a contract guaranteeing employment, and nothing in it, or any other policy or communication, changes the fact that employment with the Authority is at-will. At-will employment means you can leave the Development Authority at any time, and the Authority can terminate your employment at any time, for any reason.

We wish you the best of luck and success in your position and hope that your employment relationship with the Authority will be a rewarding experience.

B. Authority Mission

The mission of the Development Authority of the North Country is to serve the common

interests of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties by providing technical services and infrastructure, which will enhance economic opportunities in the region and promote the health and well-being of its communities.

C. Authority Principles

We will measure our achievements against these standards in all our activities.

Integrity

We will be honest and responsible in dealing with customers, suppliers, partners and coworkers.

Environment

We will strive to protect, conserve and enhance the health and well-being of our region, for current and future generations.

Quality and Excellence

We will provide services that meet or exceed the needs and expectations of our customers. We will listen to our customers and pursue improvement and innovation in all our operations.

People

People are the key to our success and our most important resource. Our employees will have equal opportunity in an environment that fosters communications and continuous improvement through employee involvement. We will treat our employees the way we expect them to treat our customers.

Leadership and Accountability

We will identify opportunities that will benefit our customers and partners, and will focus our resources to take advantage of those opportunities. We will be accountable and responsible - individually and as an organization - for our actions and results.

Partnership

We will work collectively and cooperatively with our coworkers and customers to achieve together what we could not achieve alone.

Stewardship

We will maintain the highest level of fiscal responsibility and trust in our dealings.

SECTION 2 - EMPLOYMENT POLICIES

A. Equal Employment Opportunity

The Authority is an equal opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against any applicant or employee because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual preference, sexual orientation, marital status, domestic violence victim status, gender identity or expression, familial status, military status, veteran's status, disability, genetic predisposition or carrier status, a known disability or any other characteristics protected by law. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of recruitment and employment, including, but not limited to, hiring, placement, promotion, working conditions, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leave of absence, discipline, compensation, and training.

To further the principles of equal employment opportunity for all, the Authority has developed affirmative action practices for minorities, women, handicapped individuals, and Vietnam-era special disabled veterans. The Executive Director is responsible for administering and assuring compliance with these policies.

Any employees with questions or concerns about any type of discrimination in the workplace are encouraged to bring these issues to the attention of their immediate supervisor, the Human Resources Department or Executive Director. Employees can raise concerns and make reports without fear of reprisal. Every effort will be made to maintain the confidentiality of the matter consistent with the Authority's need to thoroughly investigate the allegations. Complete confidentiality cannot however be guaranteed. Anyone found to be engaging in any type of unlawful discrimination will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

B. Prohibition of Discrimination Based on Reproductive Health Decision Making

The Authority will not access an employee's personal information regarding the employee's or the employee's dependent's reproductive health decision making, discriminate or take any retaliatory action against any employee with respect to compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because of or on the basis of the employee's or their dependent's reproductive health decision making, or

require an employee to sign a waiver or other document which purports to deny an employee the right to make their own reproductive health care decisions. For purposes of this policy “reproductive health decision making” includes, but is not limited to, a decision to use or access a particular drug, device, or medical service. In addition to reporting any alleged violations of this policy to the Authority, employees may also choose to pursue legal remedies by initiating a civil action in court for damages, injunctive relief, reinstatement, and/or liquidated damages.

No employee will be subject to retaliation or discipline by the Authority as a result of making or threatening to make a complaint against the Authority, a co-worker, or a public body, with respect to rights guaranteed under applicable law that have been violated; causing to be instituted any proceeding alleging violations of applicable law; or providing information to, or testifying before, any public body conducting an investigation, hearing, or inquiry into any alleged violation by the Authority of applicable law, rule, or regulation.

Any employee who believes that he or she has been subject to discriminatory or retaliatory behavior in violation of this policy should report it immediately to Human Resources or the Executive Director.

C. Personal Privacy Protection and Employee Access to Personnel Records

1. Personnel files are the property of the Authority.
2. The Authority complies with Article 6A of the Public Officers Law with respect to the privacy of personnel records.
3. Upon request, each employee of the Authority will be allowed to inspect his/her personnel records in the presence of their supervisor or Human Resources. An employee may request inaccurate information be corrected and/or may submit corrections to the records. If a request to correct records is denied, the employee may file a written appeal with the Executive Director.

D. Employee Complaint Process

The Authority has an internal complaint and right of appeal process to enable an employee to request assistance, report sexual harassment or other discrimination, or

address any perceived unfairness. Through this process, the Authority can eliminate conditions, which may be discriminatory or detrimental to an employee or the Authority's efficiency and reputation.

Misunderstandings or conflicts can arise in any organization. To ensure effective working relations, it is important that such matters be resolved before serious problems develop. Most incidents resolve themselves naturally; however, should a situation persist that you believe is detrimental to you or to the Authority, you should follow the procedure described here for bringing your complaint to management's attention.

Step One: Discussion of the problem with your immediate supervisor or Division Director is encouraged as a first step. If, however, you don't believe a discussion with your supervisor is appropriate, you may proceed directly to Step Two.

Step Two: If your problem is not resolved after discussion with your supervisor or if you feel discussion with your supervisor is inappropriate, you are encouraged to request a meeting with Human Resources. In an effort to resolve the problem, the Authority will consider the facts, conduct an investigation, and will normally respond within five working days.

Step Three: If you are not satisfied with this decision and wish to pursue the problem or complaint further, you may prepare a written summary of your concerns and request that the matter be reviewed by the Executive Director and/or Governance Committee. If the Executive Director has already been consulted during Step Two, the issue will be reviewed by the Governance Committee.

The committee, after a full examination of the facts (which would include a review of the written summary of your statement, and may include discussions with all individuals concerned, and a further investigation if necessary), will normally advise you of its decision within fifteen working days. The decision of the committee shall be final.

All requests will be reviewed as quickly and thoroughly as possible. The concern or complaint will be treated with complete respect and confidentiality, except as may be otherwise required by law.

E. Employee Assistance Program

1. The Authority recognizes that a wide range of problems — such as marital or family distress, alcoholism, and drug abuse — not directly associated with an individual's job function can nonetheless be detrimental to an employee's performance on the job. Consequently, we believe it is in the interest of employees and the Authority to provide an effective program to assist employees and their families in resolving problems such as these as the need arises.
2. Pivot Employee Assistance Services (EAP), is a confidential referral service available to all employees. The program provides crisis intervention and pretreatment counseling and referral to appropriate professional services for any employee with a personal problem that is adversely affecting job performance. Employees wishing this confidential service may call 315-788-4790.
3. Participation in EAP does not excuse employees from complying with normal Authority policies or from meeting normal job requirements during or after receiving EAP assistance. Nor will participation in our EAP prevent the Authority from taking disciplinary action against any employee for performance problems that occur before, during, or after the employee's seeking assistance through the EAP.

F. Physical Evaluation/Alcohol and Substance Abuse

Drug and alcohol dependency is an illness and a major health problem, which effects employee job performance. Furthermore, such abuse creates potential safety and security problems. For these reasons, the Authority has developed this policy.

1. As part of the Authority's employment procedures, all job applicants offered a position with the Authority will be required to have a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen conducted by a physician designated by the Authority. Any offer of employment by the Authority is contingent upon, among other things, satisfactory completion of these examinations, and a determination by the Authority and its examining physicians that the applicant is capable of performing the responsibilities of the position that has been offered.

2. Further, as a condition of continued employment, employees may also be required to undergo periodic medical examinations, at times specified by the Authority. Examinations may be required post-job injury or incident/accident. In connection with these examinations, employees are required to provide the Authority with access to their medical records, if requested. Further, it should be understood that the Authority receives a full medical report from its examining physicians regarding the applicant's or employee's state of health. Questions about medical examinations or alcohol and drug screening should be directed to Human Resources.
3. The Authority is required to comply with the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 (the "Act") and the U.S. Department of Transportation Regulation 49 CFR Part 40 (the "Regulation"). Job applicants for a position that requires a CDL will be required to have a pre-employment alcohol and controlled substance screening. Procedures for compliance with the Act and Regulation have been adopted by the Authority and communicated to covered employees.
4. All Authority-required medical examinations and alcohol and drug screenings are paid by the Authority.
5. Employees are expected and required to report to work on time and in mental and physical condition for work. Reporting to work under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance is prohibited.
6. The manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of alcohol, marijuana or any controlled substance on Authority premises or while conducting Authority business off premises is prohibited. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action, which may include termination of employment.
7. The Authority encourages employees needing help in dealing with such problems to use the Pivot Employee Assistance Services, 315-788-4790.

G. Conflicts of Interest

1. Authority employees may not have any interest, direct or indirect, financial or otherwise, or engage in any business activity or transaction which is in conflict or creates the appearance of a conflict with the proper discharge of the employee's duties for the Authority. All personnel will sign an annual certification, declaring any conflicts of interest, or affirming none exist.
2. All business of the Authority must be conducted on an objective basis, solely on its merits and in accordance with Section 74 of the Public Officers Law, "Code of Ethics", and the Authority's Ethics Policy.

H. Confidential Information

1. Employees may not use their knowledge gained in the course of employment with the Authority in any way except to serve the authorized purposes of the Authority.
2. All of the business transacted by the Authority and all records, correspondence and general information is to be considered confidential except as specifically identified otherwise by the Executive Director, in accordance with the Authority's Public Access to Records policy.
3. Employees found to be violating this policy are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, and may be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties for violations of, among other things, applicable securities laws.

I. Outside Employment

1. No Authority employee may engage in outside employment of the same nature, or provide similar services as provided by the Authority. An employee may engage in unrelated employment outside the Authority during hours that do not interfere with his/her work schedule or performance.
2. Authority employees who serve as directors, owners, employees or agents of companies seeking to do business with the Authority shall disclose in writing

such interest to the Executive Director, who shall determine whether a prohibited conflict exists. The Executive Director shall update and review such relationships on an annual basis.

3. This guideline does not apply to volunteer, civic and humanitarian organizations.

J. Personal Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures

1. Each Authority employee is expected to be aware of and personally exemplify the highest standards of professional, ethical and moral conduct.
2. Whether you are on duty or off, your conduct reflects on the Authority. You are, consequently, encouraged to observe the highest standards of professionalism at all times.
3. Types of behavior and conduct that the Authority considers inappropriate include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Falsifying employment or other Authority records
 - b. Violating the Authority's nondiscrimination and/or sexual harassment policy
 - c. Excessive absenteeism or tardiness
 - d. Excessive, unnecessary, or unauthorized use of supplies, particularly for personal purposes
 - e. Reporting to work intoxicated or under the influence of non-prescribed drugs, and illegal manufacture, possession, use, sale, distribution or transportation of drugs
 - f. Bringing or using alcoholic beverages, marijuana or any illegal drug on Authority property or using alcoholic beverages, marijuana or any illegal drug while engaged in Authority business
 - g. Fighting or using obscene, abusive, or threatening language or gestures
 - h. Theft of property
 - i. Possession of firearms on Authority premises or while on Authority business
 - j. Disregarding safety or security regulations

k. Insubordination

l. Failing to maintain required confidentiality

4. Violations of the Authority's work rules, instances of unacceptable behavior or misconduct, or continued poor performance will generally be subject to progressive discipline. Progressive discipline means that employees will be assessed penalties that become increasingly severe each time an offense is repeated or a performance improvement is not forthcoming. However, some types of misconduct and/or job performance are so serious that they may result further discipline to include an immediate dismissal from employment.

K. Solicitations

1. Solicitation or distribution of literature of any kind by or of Authority employees is not permitted during working time or in working areas. Employees who are not on working time, such as during meal periods, break time, or other non-working time, may not solicit employees who are on working time. The intent of this prohibition is not to preclude supporting the fundraising efforts of adjudged community benefit organizations. All such proposed solicitations shall be approved, and conditions of approval detailed, by the soliciting employee's supervisor.
2. Non-employees are not permitted to solicit or distribute literature at any time on Authority property.

L. Personal Business and Use of Authority Equipment

1. The Authority expects all of its employees to perform Authority work during their normal work hours. Employees are expected to use discretion with regard to incoming and outgoing personal calls and the carrying out of personal business during normal work hours.
2. Employee work areas, desks, lockers, and office equipment are provided by the Authority. The control of these areas and equipment remains with the Authority and the Authority reserves the right to enter these work spaces and monitor the

use of other equipment when deemed appropriate.

3. The Authority's computer system provides e-mail capabilities. The system is subject to monitoring by the Authority and the use of electronic mail program amounts to employee consent of such monitoring. Employees using Authority computers may, from time to time, find it necessary to use a password to protect confidential material. When a confidential password is used, it must also be given to the employee's supervisor as needed. The Authority's computer system is governed by the Authority's Information Technology and Security Policy and associated IT procedures.
4. The Authority also reserves the right to open all mail delivered to the Authority; therefore, employees are encouraged to have personal mail delivered to their homes.
5. Personal use of Authority equipment or supplies, including, but not limited to, copying machines, fax machines, computers, and office supplies, is generally prohibited. The intent of this policy is not to preclude reasonable use of such equipment by the employee when the employee's supervisor shall determine that such use is in the interest of the Authority given specific circumstances. Use of Authority equipment or supplies for outside employment is strictly prohibited.
6. Personal use of Authority automobiles and other equipment is prohibited.

M. Safety and Wellness

Providing you with safe working conditions is a primary concern of the Authority. To this end, the Authority makes every effort to comply with relevant Federal and State Occupational Health and Safety Laws, but the prevention of injuries and accidents cannot be accomplished without the continuous sincere effort of all employees. We encourage you to be constantly on the alert for incidents of human error and mechanical failure. Report any condition or employee practice that is likely to cause an accident to your supervisor immediately. For more information regarding safety and health, refer to the Health and Safety manual located on the Authority website.

N. Workplace Violence Prevention Program

The Authority is a New York State public benefit corporation and therefore, is required to follow NYCRR Part 800.6 Workplace Violence Prevention regulations. The requirements of the regulation mandates annual training for all employees at time of hire and annually thereafter of what workplace violence is, conduct a risk evaluation to identify possible danger before they happen and provide a written workplace violence prevention program for employee review. For more information regarding the Authority's Workplace Violence Prevention Program, refer to the program details in the Authority's Health & Safety Manual.

O. Smoking Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines whereby the Authority provides a smoke-free work environment for our employees and complies with all federal and state indoor Clean Air Acts. This policy applies to all employees, vendors, visitors and contractors. Any use of tobacco must be 25 foot away from Authority buildings.

1. Discipline: All employees share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing the Smoking Policy. In all cases, the right of the non-smoker to protect his/her health and comfort will take precedence over an employee desiring to smoke. Employees who violate this policy may receive a written safety violation notice and may be disciplined, up to and including termination of employment, based on the severity of the violation.
2. Employee Assistance: The Authority provides an Employee Assistance Program for its employees. This program includes assistance with smoking cessation. In addition, community-based programs are available and the Authority will assist any interested employees (Reference Personnel Policy Section 2.E., Employee Assistance Program).

P. Tape Recording Policy

The Authority prohibits its employees from secretly recording or directing others to secretly record, by audio or video tape or other electronic means, discussions or meeting between or among employees, vendors, visitors and contractors while on

Authority premises, and/or between or among employees while outside the Authority on Authority business without the prior express written approval by the Executive Director. Anyone violating this policy will be disciplined up to and including termination from employment.

Q. Nursing Mothers Policy

The Authority will provide a reasonable amount of break time to accommodate a female employee's need to express breast milk for the employee's infant child. The break time should, if possible, be taken concurrently with other break periods already provided. The Authority will also make a reasonable effort to provide the employee with the use of a room or other location in close proximity to the employee's work area, for the employee to express milk in private.

Employees should notify their supervisor, or a member of Human Resources to request time to express breast milk under this policy. The Authority reserves the right to delay or postpone an employee's request for a lactation break by up to 30 minutes if the additional break time will seriously disrupt operations and in accordance with applicable law.

No provision of this policy applies or is enforced if it conflicts with or is superseded by any requirement or prohibition contained in a federal, state or local law or regulation. Anyone with knowledge of such a conflict or potential conflict should contact Human Resources.

R. Telecommuting Policy

The Authority has a Telecommuting policy which establishes guidelines for telecommuting arrangements for employees. Telecommuting arrangements are not a right or entitlement of employment; they are discretionary and subject to operational needs. Telecommuting arrangements can be rescinded at any time with appropriate notice. There is no appeals process when a telecommuting arrangement has been denied or rescinded.

Telecommuting allows employees to work at home, on the road or in a satellite location for all or part of their workweek. The Authority considers telecommuting to

be a viable, flexible work option when both the employee and the job are suited to such an arrangement. Telecommuting may be appropriate for some employees and jobs, but not for others. Telecommuting is not an entitlement, it is not an Authority-wide benefit, and it in no way changes the terms and conditions of employment between the employee and the Authority. It is important to note that Telecommuting approved on a one-off or otherwise irregular basis is not a telecommuting arrangement as defined under the policy.

Telecommuting arrangements require the initial and ongoing approval of the employee's Division Director, Human Resources, and the Executive Director. For more information regarding the policy, refer to the program on the Authority website.

SECTION 3 - COMPENSATION POLICIES

A. Salary Administration Definitions

1. Employees

- a. **Regular** - Any employee who is regularly scheduled to work 30 hours or more per week. Regular employees are eligible for the benefits detailed by Section 4.
- b. **Temporary** - Any employee who is hired for a special project or period of time and works fewer than 12 months or less than 1,560 hours, in any fiscal year.

Temporary employees are not eligible for benefits as described in Section 4, except for optional benefits on a case-by-case basis and participation in the New York State Employees' Retirement System. Temporary employees receive workers' compensation as mandated by law. Temporary employees working a minimum of 20 hours per week receive short term disability coverage.

- c. **Workers provided by a third party contractor, or a consultant who is retained as an independent contractor** by the Authority, are not covered under these Personnel Policies.

2. Orientation Period

- a. Newly hired employees will have a 180 calendar-day orientation period. The orientation period provides both the employee and the Authority an opportunity to get to know one another. At the end of the period, the employee will receive a review by his/her supervisor.
- b. Successful completion of the orientation period should not be construed as creating a contract guaranteeing any special privileges.

3. Basic Work Week

- a. Each work week begins Sunday and ends Saturday midnight, and is considered individually. Work schedules are as established by management. Standard work days can be changed from time to time by management to meet changing operating requirements.

4. Base Salary

- a. Base salary is compensation regularly paid to each employee as remuneration for work performed. Base salary does not include overtime pay.

5. Employee Status and Overtime Pay

- a. Exempt - Exempt employees are those employees whose duties meet the standards for exemption from the U.S. Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), the New York Labor Law and the implementing regulations, including the exemptions for executive (managerial and supervisory), administrative, and professional employees, and computer-related occupations. Exempt employees do not receive overtime compensation for hours worked in excess of 40 hours in a work week.
- b. Non-Exempt - Non-Exempt employees are those employees covered by the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and the New York Labor Law, and include all non-salaried (hourly) workers and those salaried employees whose duties do not meet the standards for the statutory exemptions. Non-exempt employees, who work more than 40 hours in a work week, will receive compensation at the rate of 1 and ½ times their regular hourly rate for all hours worked in excess of 40 in a work week.
- c. Overtime hours should be approved in advance by the Division Director or Supervisor.
- d. Solely for overtime pay purposes, hours worked include designated holidays, vacation, personal and sick leave hours.
- e. Employees will be informed of their status at the time of hire and when a change occurs due to a promotion or transfer.

6. Call In Pay

Any regular, full-time, permanent, hourly employee who is called in to work unscheduled hours shall be paid a minimum of two (2) hours pay.

7. On Call Pay

Any regular, full-time, permanent, hourly employee who is on call to work unscheduled hours shall be paid a weekly stipend for the on-call period. The

amount of such stipends shall be established by the Authority on an annual basis.

B. Longevity Incentive Pay

Any regular, full time, hourly or salaried employee shall be eligible for a single non-recurring payment upon completion of five, ten, fifteen, twenty and twenty-five years of continuous service with the Authority. The amount of the longevity incentive shall be as follows:

| Years of Service: | Dollar Amount |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 5 | \$500 |
| 10 | \$1,000 |
| 15 | \$1,500 |
| 20 | \$2,000 |
| 25 | \$2,000 |

The payment shall be issued upon the anniversary day of the employment with the Authority or the next payday, to be determined by Finance.

The payment shall not be incorporated in the annual salary, but shall be a one-time payment.

The payment may be withheld by the Executive Director for issues of performance or just cause.

C. Salary Administration Policy

1. Job Description

a. All positions have a written job description. Employees receive a copy of their job description at the time of hire and when a change occurs due to a promotion or transfer.

2. Salaries and Wages

a. Newly hired employees will start at a competitive rate commensurate with their job function and experience.

b. Salaries and wages will be reviewed periodically to determine overall competitiveness.

c. As needed, reviews will compare the Authority's salaries with available resources such as private industry, state, county, and city salary ranges, and job descriptions.

3. Performance Appraisal

To ensure that you perform your job to the best of your abilities, it is important that you be recognized for good performance and that you receive appropriate suggestions for improvement when necessary. Consistent with this goal, your performance will be evaluated by your supervisor on an ongoing basis. You will also receive periodic written evaluations of your performance. Such evaluations will normally occur at the completion of the Orientation Period, and annually thereafter.

Annual evaluations will become the basis for annual salary adjustments. Your Supervisor will develop a schedule each year for completion of your annual evaluation.

In addition, if you are promoted or transferred to a new position, your performance may be evaluated in writing after you have been in your new job for ninety days.

All written performance reviews will be based on your overall performance in relation to your job responsibilities and will also take into account your conduct, demeanor, and record of attendance.

In addition to the regular performance evaluations described above, special written performance evaluations may be conducted by your supervisor at any time to advise you of the existence of performance or disciplinary problems. Completed performance review forms will be maintained in a confidential employee file.

4. Annual Adjustment Pool

An annual adjustment pool system has been established for all employees. Each fiscal year, prior to April 1, the pool shall be reviewed by management and the Board to determine if an annual adjustment should be implemented based on cost

of living, wage comparability and other factors. Any such adjustments will be made as part of the annual budget adoption process. The total of all pay adjustments shall not exceed the pool established in a given year.

On the first pay period on or after April 1 of each year, all employees may be eligible for a pay adjustment, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The employee must have worked for six (6) months in a full-time, capacity.
- b. The employee must have a satisfactory performance appraisal for the current rating period.
- c. The employees' immediate supervisor must recommend the employee for such adjustment, which must be approved by the appropriate Manager and Executive Director. Individual performance is the key criterion in determining increases in an employee's pay.

5. Executive Director Compensation

Executive Director – The Governance Committee recommends and submits to the Board for review and approval (may be subject to an employment contract).

6. Promotions, Change of Title and Organizational Changes

- a. The Executive Director submits to the Governance Committee and/or Finance and Budget Committee recommendations with supporting documentation, if required by the Authority's By-Laws.
- b. Upon Committee approval, recommended action(s) are submitted to the Board for approval, if required.
- c. When a regular, full-time, hourly employee is promoted to a new position, he/she will advance to a pay rate that is equal to or greater than the rate in the previous position.

7. Salary Advances

Employee salary advances are not permitted.

8. Employee Garnishments

- a. The Authority complies with employee wage garnishment and levynotices.
- b. The employee's employment position is not jeopardized as a result of a garnishment or levy.

D. Employee Payroll

- a. The Authority requests all newly hired employees to enroll in direct deposit for payroll purposes. The Authority will provide, by email, an electronic copy of payroll and deductions to each employee for each payroll period.

SECTION 4 - BENEFITS

A. Benefit Policies

Benefit policies are established for the health and welfare of Authority employees. All regular employees receive benefits. Some benefits are the same for all employees. Some are accrued based upon hours worked or length of service.

This Section contains a brief description of the various benefits provided to eligible employees by the Authority. For the actual descriptions of the benefits available, reference must be made to the individual benefit plans. Where benefits are governed by formal plan documents or master policies, the exact terms of the plans or policies will govern. The Authority has discretionary authority to construe all benefit plans and policies and the provisions of this Personnel Policy, including discretionary authority to interpret any disputed provisions and to resolve all issues that arise under such plans and policies.

The Authority has no plans at this time to discontinue its current benefit plans and policies. However, the Authority expressly reserves the unqualified right, by action of the Board of Directors, to modify, amend or terminate any plan or policy at any time and for any reason, including changes that may increase the contributions required for employees and/or retired employees for a benefit beyond the levels stated in this Personnel Policy and/or the benefit plans and policies.

Retirement does not confer upon any person any irrevocable right to continued benefits under any Plan or policy of the Authority. The Authority makes no promise to continue any particular benefits in the future and rights to future benefits do not vest.

B. Medical

The Authority currently provides medical insurance plans to eligible Authority employees and their spouses and dependent children (collectively, “dependents”). Effective January 1, 2016, employees will continue to contribute a fixed amount of employee contribution as established annually by the Governance Committee of the Authority Board.

An employee who opts NOT to participate in the Authority’s medical insurance

plan before the beginning of the year will receive an additional cash stipend. The amount of the stipend will be established annually by the Governance Committee of the Authority Board, and is paid over the course of the year, as part of the employee taxable compensation.

The Authority intends this to be a benefit for an employee who has coverage from another source. The employee will be required to provide proof of alternative coverage to be eligible to receive the stipend. The stipend will stop if the employee chooses to enroll in the plan part way through the year, (assuming this enrollment is permitted by the plan).

A retiring employee may choose to continue medical coverage if they are employed by the Development Authority of the North Country, at the time of retirement and meet one of the following conditions: 1) employees who have retired prior to April 1, 2008, must have a minimum of ten (10) years of service; 2) current active employees hired prior to April 1, 2008, must have a minimum of fifteen (15) years of service; 3) employees hired after April 1, 2008, must have a minimum of twenty (20) years of service. When the retiree reaches age 65, Medicare will provide primary coverage, except as otherwise required by law. The Authority may elect to provide an alternative supplemental insurance plan.

Effective January 1, 2016, the rate of retired employees' individual coverage contributions will be established as a fixed amount of contribution as established by the Governance Committee of the Authority Board. If family coverage is elected instead, the Authority will pay for such costs up to the dollar amount provided for individual coverage.

A retiring employee must be a member of the Authority's health insurance plan to continue coverage. If an employee is participating in the "stipend medical insurance alternative", the employee must enroll in the Authority's health insurance plan during the enrollment period prior to the anticipated year of retirement.

If a retired employee does not satisfy the requirements, medical coverage for both the retired employee and any dependents who had medical coverage will terminate at retirement. Both the retired employee and dependents will have the right to

continue coverage for a period of time at their own expense under the “COBRA” rules.

The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986, as amended (“COBRA”), requires that previously covered employees and dependents who are considered “qualified beneficiaries” have the opportunity to elect continuing coverage under the medical plan for a specified period, at their own expense, when coverage would otherwise end due to an employee’s termination of employment (or reduction in hours of employment). In addition, dependents that are qualified beneficiaries have the right to elect COBRA coverage upon the occurrence of certain other events that are “qualifying events” under the COBRA rules.

C. Workers Compensation

Employees suffering an injury or illness on the job are eligible for Workers' Compensation Benefits. All payments made by the Authority's insurance carrier for wage reimbursements will be received at the Administrative Office of the NYS Insurance Fund and forwarded to the employee.

The day of occurrence (Day 0) of the injury/illness, where the employee is required to obtain medical attention, will be considered a full day of regular employment at the employee’s usual wage rate. Time lost due to the injury/illness on the day of occurrence will not be charged against accrued sick time.

For the next seven calendar days (Days 1-7), the employee may utilize accrued sick time for the number of regularly scheduled hours of work lost due to the injury/illness. The employee may not claim sick time in excess of the amount accrued.

After seven calendar days, Workers' Compensation benefits become payable to the employee. The employee will not receive compensation from the Authority while eligible for such benefits.

For injuries/illnesses which require the employee to remain away from work for more than fifteen calendar days, Workers' Compensation will begin to pay benefits for wages during the first seven calendar days. Such retroactive benefits will be returned to the Authority by the employee. In return, the Authority will reinstate the employee’s accrued sick time on a prorate basis.

Employees will continue to accrue vacation and sick time during the first seven calendar days of time lost due to injury/illness. Accrual of paid leave will terminate on the eighth calendar day and will be resumed upon the employee's return to work.

For purposes of retirement, the employee will not be considered to be on the Authority payroll while receiving Workers' Compensation benefits. During that time, no contributions will be made on behalf of the employee nor will time of service be credited.

Once an employee has received Workers' Compensation benefits for 30 days, the employee will become responsible for remitting to the Authority their portion of payments for participatory benefits sponsored by the Authority (e.g. Health Insurance).

Alternative or limited duty may be provided by the Authority, as available and/or appropriate, to employees able to return to work on such a basis.

D. Retirement Plan (New York State Pension)

The Authority participates in the New York State Employees' Retirement System. In addition, the Authority has elected to provide additional credit toward retirement through an Allowance for Unused Sick Leave [RSSL Sec. 41(j)].

Participation by Authority employees is required under Article 15 of the Retirement and Social Security Law of New York State.

E. New York State Deferred Compensation Plan (Optional)

The Authority participates in this optional plan. The New York State Deferred Compensation Plan provides employees with additional retirement savings and investment opportunities. Contributions to the Deferred Compensation Plan are on a pre-tax basis, and the earnings in employee accounts are tax deferred.

F. Section 125 Flexible Benefits Plan (Optional)

The Authority participates in this optional plan which allows each employee to establish a pre-tax account to fund: (1) existing medical insurance employee contributions, and a (2) Flexible Spending Account (FSA) to pay qualifying health care and dependent care expenses. Information on the Section 125 Plan is distributed to each employee.

G. Other Benefits

The Authority may from time to time provide for additional benefits, fully paid for by an employee and at no cost to the Authority (e.g., supplemental insurance, dental coverage, vision coverage, etc.).

H. Sick Leave

Sick leave is provided for the benefit of Authority employees. Leave time to care for dependents or family members may be from accrued sick time, personal time and vacation time, or Family and Medical Leave Act time as provided for in Section I, subject to the approval of the Executive Director.

Employees accrue sick leave at the rate of 3.08 hours per pay period or an equivalent of ten (10) workdays per year.

- a. Sick accrual is based upon hire date; accrual begins on the hiredate.
- b. Maximum accrual cannot exceed 200 days or 1600 hours.
- c. The Executive Director is authorized to modify the applicable accruals and accrual rate for the purposes of recruitment and retention of personnel, or other extenuating circumstances.

Employees must notify their manager of an absence due to sickness within two (2) hours of the start of that workday. Failure to properly notify the Authority will result in absence without leave, and may result in pay being reduced accordingly.

Employees who have been on sick leave for three (3) or more consecutive workdays may be requested to provide a medical certificate.

Accrued unused sick leave is not payable upon resignation, retirement, death or other termination of employment. The Authority has elected to provide additional credit toward retirement through an Allowance for Unused Sick Leave [RSSL Sec. 41(j)]. Up to 165 sick days may be so applied for Tiers 1 through 5, and 100 sick days for Tier 6.

Short-Term Disability (STD) benefits provide partial insurance protection to an employee in the event of a non-job related injury or illness that prevents the employee from working. The absence from work must be for more than 8 working

days to be eligible for coverage. The STD benefit is a maximum of 60% of base weekly income for up to 26-weeks. The Authority provides this STD benefit to employees (at no cost to the employee) who works a minimum of 20-hours per week. If an employee becomes disabled, the employee will receive full pay through available accrued sick leave for the first 8 days of disability. In addition, after the first 8 days, employees will receive full pay to the extent that the employee's accrued sick leave covers the un-insured portion of the employee's weekly pay.

Sick time will not be paid beyond the maximum 26-week disability benefit period.

I. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

The Development Authority of the North Country is subject to the provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The Family and Medical Leave Act provides for unpaid leave for employees under certain circumstances.

For an employee to be eligible for FMLA leave, they must have been employed by the Authority for at least 12 months, and have worked at least 1,250 hours within that 12-month period.

An eligible employee's FMLA leave is limited to 12 weeks of unpaid leave during a 12-month period, for one or more of the following reasons:

- the birth of the employee's son or daughter, and to care for the newborn;
- the placement with the employee of a son or daughter for adoption or foster care, and to care for the newly placed child;
- to care for the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent with a serious health condition;
- because of a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of his or her job.
- Military Family Leave Entitlements

Military Caregiver Leave – An eligible employee who is a spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness may take up to a total of 26 weeks of unpaid leave during a single 12-month

period to care for the covered service member. A covered service member is a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who has a serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty on active duty that may render the service member medically unfit to perform his or her duties for which the service member is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy; or is in outpatient status; or is on the temporary disability retired list.

Qualifying Exigency Leave – An eligible employee with a spouse, son, daughter, or parent on active duty or call to active duty status in the National Guard or Reserves in support of a contingency operation may use their 12-week leave entitlement to address certain qualifying exigencies. Qualifying exigencies may include attending certain military events, arranging for alternative childcare, addressing certain financial and legal arrangements, attending certain counseling sessions, and attending post- deployment reintegration briefings.

Broader Definition of Spouse

Legally married, same-sex couples are ensured to have the same rights under federal law as legally married, opposite sex couples. An employee in a legal same-sex marriage will be entitled to use FMLA leave:

- to care for a same-sex spouse with a serious health condition;
- to care for a stepchild who is the child of a same-sex spouse;
- to care for a stepparent who is the same-sex spouse of the employee's parent;
- due to a qualifying exigency related to the same-sex spouse's covered military service; or
- to care for a covered service member who is a same-sex spouse.

An employee must provide the Authority with at least 30 days advance notice before FMLA leave is to begin. If 30 days' notice is not practical, because of circumstances such as a medical emergency, notice must be given as soon as possible. The Authority requires written notice, with details, prior to the FMLA leave as specified on the FMLA Form prior to the leave. For more information or to obtain a FMLA Form, contact the Human Resources Department.

An employee on FMLA leave does not continue to accrue benefits (retirement credit, vacation, personal and sick time) during the leave period. Health insurance in place at the time of the FMLA leave will remain in effect, although the employee

is responsible for making their required premium contributions.

Employees returning from FMLA leave may be restored to, but are not guaranteed, the same position. Returning employees must be restored to an “equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment,” per Section 104(a)(13) of the Family and Medical Leave Act. For more information, contact the Human Resources department.

J. Holidays

Holiday schedules are established on an annual basis and will be posted by Management. Depending on individual requirements, operating departments may have different schedules.

If a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the Authority holiday is observed on the workday closest to the actual holiday.

K. Personal Days

All regular employees are eligible for two (2) paid personal days per fiscal year. New employees hired after the start of the fiscal year will receive credit for personal days prorated for the time remaining in the fiscal year. These days may be taken at the convenience of the employee and the Authority for such occasions as religious observances, birthdays or personal business. Personal days may not be carried over to the next fiscal year.

L. Vacations

1. The Authority provides annual paid vacation to eligible employees for the purpose of rest, recreation, and change in environment. Vacations are administered and scheduled on a fiscal year basis to meet the requirements of the Authority and, whenever possible, the convenience of the employee.
2. Vacations are scheduled with consideration of other employees' requests. If a conflict in scheduling occurs, the employee with the longest continuous service with the Authority has first choice.
3. Vacation accrual is based upon hire date and length of service; accrual begins on the hire date.
4. Eligible employees accrue vacation at the following rates:
 - a. **Hire date through completion of five (5) years of service** - accrual rate

- 3.08 hours per pay period, equivalent to two (2) workweeks per year.
- b. **Five (5) years through completion of fifteen (15) years of service** - accrual rate 4.62 hours per pay period, equivalent to three (3) workweeks per year.
 - c. **Fifteen (15) years through completion of twenty-five (25) years of service** - accrual rate 6.15 hours per pay period, equivalent to four (4) workweeks per year.
 - d. **Twenty-five (25) years or more of service** – accrual rate 7.69 hours per pay period, equivalent to five (5) workweeks per year.
 - e. The Executive Director is authorized to modify the applicable accruals and accrual rates for the purposes of recruitment and retention of personnel, or other extenuating circumstances.
- 5. Employees may accumulate unused vacation up to a maximum of one and one half times (1 and 1/2) the annual entitlement at year-end as long as all other provisions of the vacation policy are met.
 - 6. Employees are not permitted to take paid vacation in excess of hours accrued.
 - 7. Eligible employees will be paid at the then effective rate for any unused accrued vacation (up to 1½ times the annual entitlement) upon resignation, retirement, death, or other termination of employment.
 - 8. Accrued vacation paid upon termination may not be used to extend length of service beyond the last day worked.

M. Excused Leave for Cancer Screenings

Pursuant to New York State Civil Service Law Section 159-b, effective March 18, 2018, all Authority employees are entitled to take up to a maximum of four (4) hours of paid leave per year for any type of cancer screening without deducting from any other leave time (i.e., sick, personal, or vacation).

N. Bereavement, Jury Duty, and Military Leave

Bereavement:

If a death occurs in an employee's or their spouse's immediate family, defined as mother, father, legal guardian, brother, sister, grandparent, spouse, or child, the employee may be granted bereavement leave with pay for up to five (5) days. Up to three (3) days of paid bereavement leave, may be granted for the death of other relatives. The same bereavement benefits outlined above are provided in a

comparable basis for employees in a committed domestic partner relationship or same-sex domestic partner relationships.

Jury Duty:

Any employee required to serve jury duty will receive an equivalent of his/her full pay for the days absent from work. It is the responsibility of the employee to provide proper documentation of services on the jury and copies will be placed in the confidential employee file.

Military:

Leaves of absence for military or Reserve duty are granted to regular and part time regular employees in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

O. Personal Leave of Absence

1. A personal leave of absence without pay from active employment at the Authority may be granted, in the sole determination of the Executive Director, to regular employees who have completed their orientation period. Prior written approval must be obtained from the Executive Director, except in emergencies. Employees will submit a written request for a personal leave of absence to their immediate supervisor at least two (2) weeks in advance. All paid time off must be used before any time will be granted unpaid.
2. If a leave of absence extends for a period of less than eight (8) weeks, the employee will be returned to the same job at the same rate of pay. If the leave extends for more than eight (8) weeks, the employee will generally be eligible for the first suitable opening for which the employee is qualified.
3. The leave of absence will be an unpaid leave, except to the extent of any disability benefits to which the employee may be entitled to during the leave. During the leave period, the employee does not continue to accrue vacation and sick leave benefits, and retirement plan payments will not be made. The Authority will continue to make contributions on behalf of the employee for health and disability insurance that were made prior to the leave through 60 days of inactive status. The employee is responsible for paying the employee portion of the premium. After 60 days of inactive status, the inactive employee and their covered dependents may elect to continue their health, dental and vision coverage under COBRA.

4. Continuation of Benefits: Provided the employee is not on FMLA leave (Family Medical Leave Act), the portion of health, dental and vision (if applicable) premium paid by the Authority shall cease for any employee absent from active work for a period of 60 days or more. If the employee does not return to work, they will be responsible for the Employer portion of the health premiums paid on their behalf during the unpaid portion of their leave, in addition to premiums for employee voluntary benefits, if applicable.

P. Return to Work / Inability to Return to Work Procedure

The Authority strives to assist employees to return to work at the earliest possible date following an injury or illness when the Authority has work that the employee can perform safely given any medical restrictions. A return-to-work program has several benefits for both the Authority and our employees by minimizing time lost from work. For more information, call Human Resources.

SECTION 5 - TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

A. Training and Development Policies

1. The Authority provides an orientation session for new employees to acquaint them with the terms and benefits of their employment and to acquaint them with the role and responsibilities of the Authority. This session is part of the new employee orientation period.
2. Training and development policies are established to aid an employee in improving performance and productivity in their current position. The Authority supports training and development as a long-term strategy for improving organizational effectiveness.
3. It is the intent of the Authority that for a period of 24 months from the completion of a college course leading to a degree, or a training program leading to a professional license, for which tuition assistance is provided, the Authority may recover the cost of such training from the employee if the employee chooses to leave the Authority for other employment.

B. Tuition Reimbursement

1. Training and Development
 - a. The Authority will sponsor employees in external programs, non-college programs, workshops and seminars when the training provides a direct benefit to their job function and is required by the Authority.
 - b. All fees will be 100% paid for by the Authority, including related travel, consistent with Authority Travel and Miscellaneous Expense Policy.
 - c. Specific approval of the Executive Director is required prior to enrollment.
2. Continuing Education
 - a. The Authority will reimburse eligible employees tuition only for college credits, non-credits, and credential related individual courses or courses that have been approved by the Executive Director.
 - b. The course or program must be work related or be a required part of degree requirements, and must be offered by an accredited institution of learning.
 - c. The employee must pay for tuition and submit a request for reimbursement

at the end of each term.

- d. The employee will be reimbursed 100% of tuition only for achieving a passing grade of "C" or higher. No reimbursement will occur if the grade is "D" or lower.
 - e. The reimbursement of tuition only shall not exceed the established rates for the graduate and undergraduate levels of the State University of New York tuition schedule.
 - f. In special situations, at the discretion of the Executive Director, the Authority may pay for tuition, in advance, if the course is directly related to job performance and productivity.
 - g. Any employee receiving continuing education reimbursement shall enter into an agreement for a mandatory continued employment or payback schedule established as per the policy Continuing Education Assistance Program.
3. Only regular employees with one year or more years of service are eligible for tuition reimbursement, unless specifically authorized by the Executive Director.

SECTION 6 - EMPLOYEE TRAVEL AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

1. The Authority's Travel and Miscellaneous Expense Policy is contained in a separate document. The purpose of the policy is to provide for reimbursement of allowable travel expenses incurred when business is conducted away from the Authority official duty station; and for reimbursement of certain other expenses.
2. The policy applies to the Board of Directors and employees of the Authority.
3. Refer to the Travel and Miscellaneous Expense Policy for detailed guidance.

Revision Date: March 13, 2009

Revision Date: July 2, 2009; Resolution No. 2009-07-03

Revision Date: December 8, 2011; Resolution No. 2011-12-03

Revision Date: March 22, 2012, Resolution No. 2012-03-04

Revision Date: March 21, 2013; Resolution No. 2013-03-04

Revision Date: August 28, 2014; Resolution No. 2014-08-05

Revision Date: March 19, 2015; Resolution No. 2015-03-33

Revision Date: December 10, 2015, Resolution No. 2015-12-118

Revision Date: March 31, 2016, Resolution No. 2016-03-40

Revision Date: May 3, 2016, No Resolution Required (Section 3. B. 9. a. "requests" replaces "requires") Revision Date: March 23, 2017; Resolution No. 2017-03-25

Revision Date: February 22, 2018, Resolution No. 2018-02-02

Revision Date: March 28, 2018, Resolution No. 2018-03-32

Revision Date: December 20, 2018, Resolution No. 2018-12-123

Revision Date: March 28, 2019; Resolution No. 2019-03-32

Revision Date: May 16, 2019; Resolution No. 2019-05-49 (recalculation/financial payroll & human resources reporting)

Revision Date: March 26, 2020; Resolution No. 2020-03-27

Revision Date: August 27, 2020; Resolution No 2020-08-106 (update Organizational Chart)

Revision Date: March 25, 2021; Resolution No. 2021-03-56 (Update Appendix A-D)

Revision Date: March 24, 2022; Resolution No. 2022-02-24

**PERSONNEL POLICY
Acknowledgement Form**

This manual (Personnel Policy), dated March 24, 2022, is not a contract guaranteeing employment, and nothing in it, or any other policy or communication, changes the fact that employment with the Authority is at-will. At-will employment means you can leave the Development Authority at any time, and the Authority can terminate your employment at any time, for any reason.

By signing this acknowledgment form, you confirm understanding and acknowledge the contents in the Authority’s Personnel Policy. You further understand that the Personnel Policy can be found on the Authority’s website at www.danc.org. Furthermore, you acknowledge you can ask your direct supervisor, human resources or the Executive Director, at any time, about the contents within the Personnel Policy.

The undersigned acknowledges the above statement:

Employee Name

Date

Supervisor Name

Date

APPENDIX A – ORGANIZATION CHART

