



Racine Fire Department
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

May 8, 2019

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council,

The Racine Fire Department is requesting permission to accept \$32,500 from Ascension All Saints Hospital and Foundation to support the Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program. These funds will be utilized to cover the cost of stipends and supplies associated with the program in addition to covering the cost of sending five additional paramedics to UW-Milwaukee for MIH training.

The U.S. healthcare system is often described as one that fails to achieve optimal health outcomes while generating exorbitant costs for patients, payers and society.

The Institute of Medicine estimates that \$750 billion—30% of the U.S. annual healthcare budget—is wasted on unnecessary services, inefficient delivery, excessive administrative costs and prevention failures. Barriers to patient access, fragmentation of acute and chronic care, ineffective management of chronic illness, and complex, outdated reimbursement processes leave patients, clinicians and payers frustrated at historic levels.

A special problem: 24/7 coordinated out-of-hospital care. The discontinuities of health service are notably evident in the care of patients at home. This is particularly true for the chronically ill, frail elderly and mobility impaired. Multiple single-purpose providers offer some care and often only during normal business hours of operation, neither of which match the actual needs of this patient population.

As a result, patients are routinely referred to hospital emergency departments by their healthcare providers, outside of normal business hours, despite the common knowledge that the emergency department is an imprecise match to their medical or ongoing needs. Further, care gaps such as a lack of post-acute transitional care make preventable re-admissions a virtual inevitability that is both expensive and disappointing to patients, caregivers and the healthcare system.

In attempts to correct some of these shortcomings, the fire department is partnering with Ascension All Saints Hospital to deliver inter-professional practice of medicine, Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH), which is intended to serve a range of patients in the



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out-of-hospital setting by providing 24/7 needs-based at-home integrated acute care, chronic care and prevention services.

A Mobile Integrated Healthcare will focus on patient-centered outcomes from recent hospital stays offering transparent population-specific care by integrating existing fire department resources, bringing care to patients through technology, communications, and health information exchanges.

The funding associated with this request will cover the cost of paramedic service including but not limited to wages, benefits, and ancillary costs associated with the program. In exchange, our paramedics who are specially trained through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee MIH program provide home visits for discharged patients 24/7/365. The ultimate goal is to insure patients are receiving the support they need to avoid re-admission to the hospital for more than 31 days. This is a cost savings to the hospitals and the fire department through emergency run reductions. Patients who are enrolled in the program fall into several major medical categories; heart attack patients, stroke patients, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients (COPD), and congestive heart failure (CHF) patients. The funding also pays for five more paramedics to be trained in the MIH program. This will give the fire department 12 members or four per shift with a long term goal of having 18 MIH trained paramedics available or six per shift.

During home visits our paramedics and their assistants also perform home safety inspections with the approval of the patient. These home safety inspections include slips, trips, and fall hazards, working smoke detectors, working carbon monoxide detectors, appropriate grab rails in the bathroom, and other safety related reviews.

The program will improve the quality of life for our citizens and ultimately stabilize or reduce future emergency calls for help.

Grant Control Number 00242 dated May 2019.

Fiscal Note: \$20,000 will cover stipends and supplies for the MIH program while the \$12,500 will cover the cost of sending five paramedics to the UW-Milwaukee MIH training program. There is no city match required.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief