

From the Wisconsin Department of Health Services EMS Flex Grant guidance issued June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) serve as the backbone to emergency care, with 791 Wisconsin-based EMS Services, and over 16,000 licensed providers providing pre-hospital emergency medical care statewide. Wisconsin has a robust volunteer model, with over 450 EMS Services being solely volunteer, or operating with a combination of volunteers and part-time/full-time staff. It is no secret that COVID-19 has exposed the EMS system to its greatest challenge yet.

As a group, EMS Services in Wisconsin have been impacted by the economic disruption resulting from and exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency. The EMS system was stretched to the brink before the pandemic. EMS staff serve our state's most vulnerable residents, including work on the very front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Positioned at the intersection of public health and public safety, Emergency Medical Services serve our communities 24 hours a day, seven days a week. From stroke to trauma to heart attack to COVID-19, EMS and fire agencies provide life-sustaining frontline healthcare. EMS agencies of all sizes dipped deeply into scant reserves to protect their staff and their communities from COVID-19. The EMS Flex Grant program was created in response to the need to stabilize mobile healthcare providers by providing this one-time funding to ensure they can continue to respond to emergencies across Wisconsin.

All EMS Services that are licensed in the state of Wisconsin are eligible to submit a request for funding.

All EMS Services licensed in the state of Wisconsin are eligible to request funding. Department of Health Services (DHS) shall interpret eligibility criteria to align with program objectives and American Recovery Plan Act of 2021 requirements. EMS Services may not be funded for the full amount requested, and may be required to submit a revised budget.

Should additional funding become available, DHS will use the initial requests received to make additional decisions about fund availability to selected agencies or to fund additional agencies that applied but were not funded originally.

Funds must be spent within twelve months of the Notice of Award (with the opportunity for an extension under extenuating circumstances).

EMS Services will be required to submit reports every six months. Templates and report submission details will be provided along with the Notice of Award.

Racine Fire Department request is for \$200,000 to assist in replacing the oldest ambulance in the fire department fleet. We will budget \$80,000 in the 2023 CIP program as the City's share of the cost and reduce the cost of replacing MED 21 in 2023 from \$210,000 to \$80,000.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief