

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NOTICE OF EMSOF FUNDING PRIORITIES

Under 28 Pa. Code §§ 1001.22 and 1001.23 (relating to criteria for funding; and allocation of funds), the Department of Health (Department) hereby gives notice of priorities for the distribution by the regional emergency medical services (EMS) councils of funding from the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund (EMSOF) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2007.

EMSOF monies are to be used to provide funding to maintain, improve and develop the quality of the EMS system within this Commonwealth. The Department finds that EMSOF is not sufficient to fully fund the EMS system. Therefore, it gives notice, under 28 Pa. Code § 1001.22(d), that recipients of EMSOF funding from regional EMS councils may be required to contribute funds toward all purchases, acquisitions and projects for which the Department permits the use of EMSOF monies.

Each regional EMS council shall prioritize the distribution of its EMSOF allocation based upon the Statewide EMS Development Plan and its regional EMS development plan, subject to the funding priorities set forth in this notice. By September 30, 2006, the regional EMS councils shall notify the providers and other appropriate entities of the established funding priorities, the application process, acquisition documentation requirements and processing deadlines. Each regional EMS council must complete all documents required for the distribution of EMSOF funding by June 30, 2007.

The Department may increase the amount of the initial payment or reimbursement from EMSOF based upon the EMS development plans (State and regional) or documented financial hardship of a provider of EMS. A provider of EMS that seeks additional funds due to financial hardship shall be required to submit a financial disclosure statement and other documentation deemed necessary by the Department.

A provider of EMS applying for EMSOF funding must be in full compliance, with all regulations, policies and priorities of the State and regional EMS systems.

Funds for purchases, acquisitions and projects for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2007, must be expended by the regional EMS council by June 30, 2007, unless a written request for an extension of time, not to exceed 90 calendar days, is submitted by the regional EMS council and approved by the Department prior to June 30, 2007.

Funding Priorities:

These priorities are not ranked. The priorities must be considered before there is any regional distribution of EMSOF monies for initiatives that are not listed. All funding must be distributed consistent with the regional and Statewide EMS development plans. Consequently, if the priorities in this notice have been funded and additional funding is available, the request to use EMSOF money towards nonpriority items must still be supported by the Statewide and regional EMS development plans.

- Development or improvement of an organizational risk management program (safety measures, hazard recognition/mitigation and the necessary organizational structure and support processes) proposed by an ambulance service. Proposals for funding must be comprehensive and include safe vehicle operations. Approval by the Department is required prior to funding.

- Recruitment and retention programs, including scholarships/tuition reimbursement for emergency medical technician (EMT) and paramedic training in areas with high prehospital personnel vacancy rates as determined by the regional EMS council and approved by the Department.
- Automatic external defibrillators (AED) and upgrade to current standards for Department recognized quick response services (QRSs) and basic life support (BLS) ambulance services.
- Equipment required to meet BLS and advanced life support (ALS) ambulance service licensure.
- Capnography equipment (especially wave-form end-tidal CO₂ monitors).
- An ambulance for ambulance services that is older than 10 years or more than 200,000 miles on it. Limit to one (1) per Fiscal Year.
- Software/computer equipment to enable services to collect and transmit EMS patient care reports electronically.
- Communication equipment and capabilities for EMS response in areas with poor to no communication capability between ambulances and medical command facilities or between ambulances and receiving facilities.
- Quality assurance/improvement program.
- EMS personnel protective respiratory equipment approved by the Department to protect the EMS practitioner from communicable diseases transmitted from person to person through airborne mechanisms.

When two or more ambulance companies have consolidated, the entity may be deemed eligible to receive a grant not to exceed the amount of the combined total for which the individual companies would have been eligible had they not consolidated for the first five years after the ambulance companies completed consolidation.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Funding Requests:

Emergency preparedness and response funding requests must be based on local and response roles of services, regional needs, and needs identified by threat vulnerability analysis. Purchases must be coordinated with county emergency, fire service, HAZMAT and hospital organizations in the applicant's service area to assure interoperability and to prevent duplication. Funding requests related to response to terrorism and emergency preparedness must have a clear connection to the regional EMS catastrophic plan and the regional EMS development plan. Priority will be given to fund the ambulance services in each region that have committed to participating in the EMS surge capability project and respond to requests for EMS, both interstate and intrastate, as identified in the State and regional catastrophic casualty care plans.

Provider Equipment:

Purchases by providers of EMS are not limited to equipment. If an EMS provider requests EMSOF monies to purchase equipment, the Eligible Provider Equipment List identifies equipment for which EMSOF funds will be made available to purchase. This chart identifies the types of providers of EMS eligible for equipment purchases supported by EMSOF

funding and the maximum allowable cost upon which the EMSOF contribution will be calculated.

EMSOF funds will fund 60% of the maximum allowable cost of an equipment item for rural providers and will fund 50% of the maximum allowable cost of an equipment item for nonrural providers. An eligible provider is responsible for the balance of the purchase price. The provider may purchase an item for an amount that exceeds the maximum allowable cost, but the provider will be responsible for any amount exceeding that figure. The last two columns of the chart identify the percentage of EMSOF contribution towards the purchase price, up to the maximum allowable cost of the item, based upon whether the provider operates in a rural or nonrural area.

AED capability and upgrade to current standards must be funded for a QRS or a BLS ambulance service prior to the service being approved to receive EMSOF funds towards the purchase of any other equipment. Funding for current AED's to meet current standards can be provided to services at 100% allowable cost with the maximum allowable cost being \$400.00.

Funding can be provided to services at 100% allowable cost for students to take the initial State written certification test at the paramedic level. The maximum allowable cost will be \$300.00 and/or two (2) opportunities to take the test.

Questions regarding the Eligible Provider Equipment List or other matter addressed in this notice should be directed to Joseph W. Schmider, Director, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Pennsylvania Department of Health, 1032 Health & Welfare Building, Seventh & Forster Streets, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120, (717) 787-8740. Speech or hearing impaired persons may use VTT: (717) 783-6514 or the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at 1-800-654-5984. Persons with a disability who require an alternative format of this notice (for example, large print, audiotape, Braille) should contact Joseph W. Schmider at the above address or telephone numbers.

ELIGIBLE PROVIDER EQUIPMENT LIST

EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION	LIFE EXPECTANCY	ELIGIBLE PURCHASE FOR:				ALLOWABLE COSTS ¹	NON RURAL (50%)	RURAL (60%)
		ALS	ALS/SQ	BLS	QRS			
EKG Monitor/Defibrillator with Pacer	5 years	Y	Y	N	N	12,000	6,000	7,200
12 Lead EKG ²	5 years	Y	Y	N	N	20,000	10,000	12,000
Automated External Defibrillator (AED)	5 years	N	N	Y ³	Y ³	3,500	1,750	2,100
Oxygen Equipment (any combination) Cylinder Demand Valve w/Hose & Mask Regulator (combination or constant flow) Case	5 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	500	250	300
Capnography Equipment	3 years	Y	Y	N	N	3,000	1,500	1,800
CPAP Ventilation Portable Equipment	5 years	Y	Y	N	N	900	450	540
Pulse Oximeter	5 years	Y	Y	Y	N	700	350	420
Nitrous Oxide Delivery System	5 years	Y	Y	N	N	2,000	1,000	1,200
Intravenous Infusion Pumps	5 years	Y	Y	N	N	2,000	1,000	1,000
Adult /Pediatric Intubation Kits	5 years	Y ⁸	Y ⁸	N	N	600	300	360
Transtracheal Jet Insufflators (TTJ)	5 years	Y	Y	N	N	200	100	120
Splinting/Immobilization Devices (any combination) Backboard Cervical Immobilization Device Splints (rigid, traction, etc.)	3 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	500	250	300
Stairchair	5 years	Y	N	Y	N	2,650	1,325	1,590
Stretcher – Primary	5 years	Y	N	Y	N	11,500	5,750	6,900
Stretcher/Chair Combination	5 years	Y	N	Y	N	700	350	420
Suction (portable, battery operated)	3 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	900	450	540
Ventilator, Automatic (per Department of Health guidelines)	5 years	Y ⁴	Y ⁴	Y ⁵	Y ⁵	3,000	1,500	1,800
Ambulance	-	Y	N	Y	N	-	15,000	20,000
Squad/Response Vehicle	-	N	Y	N	Y	-	7,500	9,000
Data Collection Software ⁶	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	1,700	1,700	1,700
Data Collection Hardware ⁷	3 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	1,500	750	900
Radio, Mobile (two per vehicle)	5 years	Y ⁹	Y ⁹	Y ⁹	Y ⁹	3,000	1,500	1,800
Radio, Portable (one per vehicle)	5 years	Y ⁹	Y ⁹	Y ⁹	Y ⁹	3,000	1,500	1,800
Triage Vest Set	5 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	150	75	90
Triage System	5 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	500	250	300
Alerting Equipment (5 per service @ \$400 each)	5 years	Y ⁹	Y ⁹	Y ⁹	Y ⁹	2,000	1,000	1,200
Vehicle Safety Monitoring Systems	5 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	3,500	1,750	2,100
Personal Protective Equipment/Turnout Gear: Helmet, Coat, Pants, Boots (one set)	5 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	1,200	600	720
Protective Ballistic Vest (over garment style)	5 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	1,000	500	600
Traffic Safety Equipment	5 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	2,500	1,250	1,500
Large Patient Moving/Carrying Device	10 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	3,000	1,500	1,800
Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (2 per licensed vehicle)	10 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	3,000	1,500	1,800
EMT-P Testing (Written)	--	Y	Y	N	N	300	300	300

¹ All figures are dollar amounts for each item of equipment.

² Amount includes \$1,000 for communications package. Receiving facility must have appropriate communications capabilities.

³ Must be an approved AED service or part of regional planning, and AED medical director required.

⁴ Completion of approved training program required.

⁵ Completion of approved training program required and BLS service medical director approval required.

⁶ Must be a Department-approved software program, version and vendor.

⁷ Data collection hardware may include computer, modem, printer, backup device, and battery system.

⁸ Must be durable equipment, not disposable equipment.

⁹ Must be compatible with regional and State EMS communications plan.

CALVIN B. JOHNSON, M.D.,M.P.H.,
Secretary