



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
AND RESPONSE SECTION
Division of Emergency Medical Systems
1720 Burlington Drive
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DATE: May 23, 2017

FROM: Division of Emergency Medical Systems

TO: Funding Area

RE: North Dakota Rural EMS Assistance Fund

On June 30, 2012, North Dakota Century Code 23-46 charged the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH), with recommendations from the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC), to administer the *North Dakota Rural EMS Assistance Fund*. The fund is currently in its sixth year of providing grants to rural EMS agencies. A copy of N.D.C.C. 23-46 is included as Appendix A in the *North Dakota Rural EMS Assistance Fund Grant Guidance*.

The North Dakota Rural EMS Assistance Fund will consist of multiple parts for the 2017 – 2019 biennium. The application and grant guidance for Part I (2017 – 2018) are included in this packet. This application reflects a change from previous applications which is being made for the following reasons:

1. The intent of this program is to provide funding to the 80 funding areas to assure the availability of emergency medical service (EMS) systems with reasonable response times. Previous grant awards considered the needs of the service but gave no consideration to the number of patients served. As a result, some services with high run volumes received funding that should be able to exist on fees for service. Therefore, ambulance services with a call volume over 700 runs will not be awarded funding. On the other end of the spectrum, some very low volume services received funding at levels that created extraordinarily high rates of state subsidies per run. For example, low volume services received funding of as much as \$60,000 while serving 20 patients resulting in a state subsidy per run of \$3,000. This new approach limits the amount of state subsidy to a consistent amount per run. While not perfect, this new approach creates a stronger correlation between the amount of state funding invested and the amount of benefit generated as measured by the number of people served.
2. The new approach empowers local funding areas to create more efficient and effective EMS systems rather than having the state attempt to make those decisions. Local EMS personnel are in a better position to know what financial and human resources are available within a funding area and how to configure an efficient and effective system consisting of a transporting ambulance service and a tiered response system.
3. The previous grant application process was burdensome and complex. Applicants were asked to write lengthy narratives accompanied by substantial documentation which were subjected to a complicated scoring process. The new approach greatly reduces the amount of administrative work needed by the services and makes the process easier to understand.

Therefore, Part I (2017 – 2018) of the grant awards will be based on the volume of reported ambulance runs that are either 911 responses or inter-facility transfers. Event coverage or standby coverage will not apply to run calculations. The number of runs per ambulance service(s) will be an average of the 2015 and 2016 reported runs.

The number of reported runs per individual ambulance service will be calculated and combined with the other services in a funding area. This total volume of runs will be multiplied by a fixed dollar amount of approximately \$202.00. While the call volume of ambulance services having over 700 runs per year will not be used in the calculation of the maximum eligible grant award, the funding area may include that ambulance service in their funding area disbursement agreement.

(Part I maximum eligible funding information for each funding area has been distributed.)

Ambulance service/funding areas are expected to apply for the amount of funding needed to meet the intent of the funding source as listed within the grant guidance. If the needed/requested amount is less than the maximum eligible grant award, the remaining funds will be added to the Part II funding allotment or reallocated according to Department discretion. Awards will not be granted in amounts larger than the maximum eligible grant award per funding area.

2017 Rural EMS Assistance Fund Grant Time-Line – Part I (\$3,000,000 per year)

- **Application submission deadline: Delivered to DEMS or postmarked by 5 p.m. on June 12, 2017**
- **Notice of Grant Award issued and budget template provided by Department: June 16, 2017**
- **Signed Notice of Grant Award must be delivered or emailed to DEMS, or postmarked by 5 p.m. on June 23, 2017**
- **Grant period: July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018**

The following documents needed to complete the grant application process for Part I are available on our website:

- *North Dakota Rural EMS Assistance Fund Grant Guidance (included in packet)*
- *North Dakota Rural EMS Assistance Fund Grant Application (included in packet)*

Part II (2017 – 2019) funding will be based on a competitive application process considering special circumstances that may exist for funding areas requiring additional funding. This portion will be awarded to a limited number of funding areas.

2017 Rural EMS Assistance Fund Grant Time-Line – Part II (\$500,000 per biennium)

- **Application and grant guidance: Available September, 2017**
- **Application submission deadline: Delivered to DEMS or postmarked by 5 p.m. on October 31, 2017**
- **Notice of Grant Award issued: November 6, 2017**
- **Signed Notice of Grant Award must be delivered or emailed to DEMS, or postmarked by 5 p.m. on November 21, 2017**
- **Grant period: December 1, 2017 - June 30, 2019**

Upon notice of grant award, each funding area will be required to complete a budget worksheet provided by the Department, detailing how their award will be allocated within their funding area. The budget will be reviewed and approved by the Department prior to any disbursement of funds.

As always, DEMS is available for assistance with the grant process. Please read through the application and guidance thoroughly and contact the DEMS Grants Coordinator, Debra Dutchuk at debdtuchuk@nd.gov or 701.328.3215 with any questions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Working together on a project like this can positively shape the future of EMS in North Dakota!