



EMS Day at the Capitol: A Recap

Yesterday's EMS Advocacy Day at the Capitol was a success! EMS providers gathered from across the state to speak with their legislators on a variety of issues.

A hearty thank you to our partners for helping coordinate this event, to our legislators for listening, and to EMS departments for giving their time to advocate for these issues.

Eighty attendees represented 59 EMS agencies across a variety of communities.

This year, personnel asked for **tax incentives** for volunteer fire and EMS, **language** to allow the creation of standalone emergency districts, budget **modifications** that will help municipalities, an increase in Medicaid reimbursement **rates**, and **language** to allow Medicaid GEMT supplemental reimbursement.

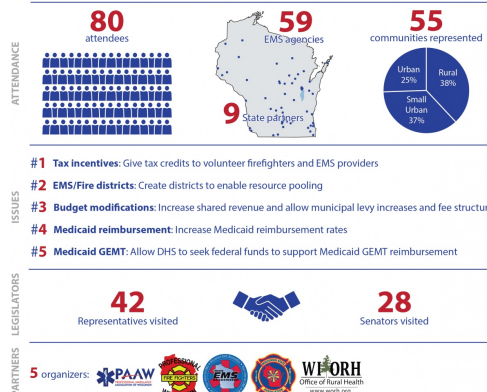
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EMS Day at the Capitol

by the numbers

10 November 2019



- #1 Tax incentives:** Give tax credits to volunteer firefighters and EMS providers
- #2 EMS/Fire districts:** Create districts to enable resource pooling
- #3 Budget modifications:** Increase shared revenue and allow municipal levy increases and fee structures
- #4 Medicaid reimbursement:** Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates
- #5 Medicaid GEMT:** Allow DHS to seek federal funds to support Medicaid GEMT reimbursement

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More News

- One Wisconsin man's story highlights a national plight: older Americans are **quietly killing themselves** in nursing homes, assisted living centers and adult care homes.

- A recent case highlights that criminal charges for a fatal medical error **are unusual**, and could make hospitals less safe by making medical personnel more hesitant to report errors.
- New factsheets are available for Critical Access Hospitals on **electronic prescribing, health information exchange, provider to patient exchange**, and **public health and clinical data exchange**.
- Beginning in 2020, seniors with Medicare Advantage plans will be able to **use telehealth from home** as part of their basic benefits package.
- How would a "Medicare for All" plan change health care spending? A handful of economists, and some interactive graphics, help **explain the situation**.

Funding & Opportunities

- Grants for creative innovations that challenge traditional approaches to serious illness and end of life care, **particularly rural populations**. (LOI: April 29th, Deadline: July 22)
- Grants to rural communities to enhance **service delivery for substance use disorder**, including opioid use disorder. (Deadline: May 6th)
- Grants to institutions of higher education and health professional training programs to **train behavioral health professionals** on prevention, treatment, and recovery services for substance use disorders. (Deadline: May 7th)
- Grants to Native American tribal organizations and governments for initiatives that **expand good health and wellness in Indian Country**. (Deadline: May 15th)
- Grants for health networks in a pilot program to develop sustainable approaches to **coordinating maternal and obstetrics care within a rural region**. (Deadline: May 24th)
- Funding to community-based outreach education and extension programs at land-grant colleges and universities that provide **families in rural areas with information on health**, wellness, and prevention. (Deadline: June 10th)

Events

- April 15: A webinar will examine **monitoring and hydration** in firefighter rehabilitation.
- April 17: The state legislature will hold a **public hearing on step therapy**--an insurance protocol that entails starting with the cheapest treatment first.
- April 17: A webinar will detail how to **structure your organization** to be prepared for telehealth.
- April 15 and 24: The **legislative committee** in charge of reviewing state appropriations and revenues is holding public hearings on the budget.
- May 16 and 17: The **Wisconsin Stroke Conference** will be held at the Wisconsin

Dells. Registration ends May 2nd.



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