

February 12, 2025

CITY ISSUE FACT SHEET: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



What is the MEDS Taskforce?

The MEDS Taskforce is a voluntary group representative of subject matter experts engaged in finding solutions that will sustain EMS services for all Minnesotans

League-Supported Minnesota Emergency Delivery and Sustainability (MEDS) Taskforce

To guarantee the continued provision of high-quality Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Minnesota, the Minnesota Emergency Delivery and Sustainability (MEDS) Taskforce urges legislators to enact legislation that ensures ongoing and sustainable financial support. The League of Minnesota Cities supports the MEDS Taskforce and its recommendations for sustaining EMS services for all Minnesotans.

LEGISLATION SHOULD INCLUDE:

Accountability and Transparency

Enhanced data tracking: The Office of EMS should develop and implement a system to comprehensively monitor emergency response times throughout the entire response continuum within each Primary Service Area, including Primary Service Answering Point through treatment times.

Continued quality reporting: The Office of EMS must maintain current reporting of EMS quality data while actively seeking and incorporating industry best practices and exploring new data points to continuously improve the quality of EMS services.



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LEGISLATION SHOULD INCLUDE:

Accountability and Transparency (Continued)

Financial transparency: All 144E-licensed ambulance services should disclose their standard charges, the amount of public subsidy they receive, and payer mix. The format for this disclosure will be publicly available and determined by the Office of EMS, ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations.

Grant accountability: Transparent reporting of grant utilization is essential.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Funding Stability

Direct Aid for Rural EMS:

- Continue to use a formula-based approach for funding distribution.
- Explore alternative formulas to more effectively allocate funding to rural areas.

Expanded Grant Programs:

- Provide grants for workforce development, capital equipment acquisition, and innovative pilot projects.
- Support grants for sustainable EMS solutions, including alternative transport models and telemedicine.

Increased Reimbursement:

- Seek Medicaid reimbursement rates that accurately reflect the true cost of providing EMS services.
- Advocate for federal reforms to Medicare reimbursement rates.
- Explore leveraging other available federal funding sources.