



Wisconsin EMS Association Legislative Goals 2019-2020

About the Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Association (WEMSA)

Established in 1974, WEMSA is the largest EMS organization in Wisconsin and represents nearly 7,000 emergency medical professionals in Wisconsin. WEMSA represents the views and interests of its membership by promoting education, sharing information and facilitating legislative action.

Increase in Medicaid Funding for EMS

WEMSA supports an increase in the Medicaid funding for EMS. The rate for EMS Medicaid reimbursement has not been increased in over 10 years. Wisconsin is 49th in the US in EMS Medicaid reimbursement support. Medical reimbursement for an average ambulance call is about \$300 with costs exceeding \$1,500 for that call.

2019 A.A.A.
Medicaid Rate Survey

State	Effective Date	BLS	ALS	ALS-E	SCT	Neonate	Treat w/o Transport	Mileage	Oxygen	ALS/BLS Supplies
Illinois (County)	7/1/2018							\$5.60	\$11.28	
Cook		\$142.63	\$222.31	\$222.31	\$289.91			\$5.60	\$15.05	
Indiana	1/5/2019	\$95.84	\$95.84	\$160.84		\$160.84		\$3.31 (BLS) \$4.41 (ALS)	5.00	
Iowa	12/1/2018	\$84.67	\$101.60	\$127.01		\$137.07	\$42.34	\$2.61	\$13.05	\$5.23 (BLS) \$5.23 (ALS)
Michigan	1/1/2019	\$126.38	\$230.26	\$230.26		\$175.30	\$126.38	\$3.92		
Minnesota	12/14/2018	\$229.81	\$275.79	\$430.03	\$747.05	\$280.39	\$220.07	\$7.33		
Missouri	1/7/2019	\$104.06	\$169.71	\$379.06				\$3.55	\$20.30	\$5.08 (ALS)
Nebraska	7/1/2018	\$138.93	\$347.34	\$347.34	\$347.34			\$5.69		
Wisconsin	1/9/2019	\$94.90	\$113.88	\$180.31	\$308.42	\$308.42	\$69.00	\$5.56	\$14.73	\$14.73 (BLS) \$14.73 (ALS)

EMS as an Essential Service

WEMSA supports making emergency medical services an essential service that would require all levels of local government (village, city, and county) to provide; similar to police and fire protection.

Currently, contracting for ambulance service is only required at the Town level. This would be the first step towards creating legislation to increase Medicaid funding and allow reimbursement for Community EMS programs.

(Towns) s. 60.565 - Ambulance service. The town board shall contract for or operate and maintain ambulance services unless such services are provided by another person. If the town board contracts for ambulance services, it may contract with one or more providers. The town board may determine and charge a reasonable fee for ambulance service provided under this section. The town board may purchase equipment for medical and other emergency calls.

(Villages) s. 61.64 - Ambulance service. The village board may purchase, equip, operate and maintain ambulances and contract for ambulance service with one or more providers for conveyance of the sick or injured. The village board may determine and charge a reasonable fee for ambulance service provided under this section.

(Cities) s. 62.133 - Ambulance service. The common council may purchase, equip, operate and maintain ambulances and contract for ambulance service with one or more providers for conveyance of the sick or injured. The common council may determine and charge a reasonable fee for ambulance service provided under this section.

(Counties) 59.54 Public protection and safety. (1) Ambulances. The board may purchase, equip, operate and maintain ambulances and contract for ambulance service with one or more providers for conveyance of the sick or injured and make reasonable charges for the use thereof.

ACTION STEP

Support an amendment to the statute to make EMS an essential service at all municipal levels

Levy Limit Caps

Over the past decade, the amount of property tax revenue local units of government and school districts can raise to support local services has been severely limited.

- EMS – all municipalities, hospital, for profit, not profit \$35-\$45/capita annually
- Vol Fire – \$82-\$85/capita
- Trash Collection - \$120/capita annually
- Career Fire – \$145-\$155/capita annually
- Law Enforcement – \$235-\$245/capita annually

However, in some cases, there have been slight modifications to provide limited flexibility for vital services. One of those modest exceptions is for county-wide EMS. This has been helpful in a few cases but has not been able to be utilized in most areas of the state for various reasons.

A county may not want to get into the EMS business, but a larger municipality in a county might be willing to provide service to the entire county or a portion of the county. However, the cost of providing such service, probably offered through part-time paid EMS providers, is not eligible to make use of the county-wide levy limit exception.

Likewise, if several towns or villages currently relying on volunteer EMS want to form a joint service with their neighbors and have a small full-time EMS service, they too are unable to use the countywide EMS exception to levy limit controls. If several counties wanted to create a multi-county EMS system, here again, the countywide language would not apply to them.

All EMS should be treated equally regarding funding. The current language on countywide EMS services should be broadened to cover all EMS services in the state, not only those that operated by a single county.

ACTION STEP

Support legislation that would extend the Countywide EMS Levy Limit Statute to all EMS systems operating in the state.

EMS-Funding Assistance Program

Wisconsin passed the FAP law in 1989 (Act 102), which provided funding to certain ambulance services that provide first-in 9-1-1 patient transport ambulance response to a particular geographic area.

The current annual allocation is authorized by State Statute 256.12(4). FAP was funded at a high of \$2.2 million, which has been cut in the last three budgets. The current annual funding is \$1.96 million. This funding is the only funding source that ambulance services receive from the state.

WEMSA would like to see FAP funding increased to the original \$2.2 million annually. The FAP funds are dispersed to ambulance services (who apply for the funding) using a formula.

ACTION STEP

Support an increase in FAP Funding to previously legislated at \$2.2 million annually.

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