



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Health Service Regulation

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Drexdal Pratt  
Division Director

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: EMS System Administrators

FROM: Regina Godette-Crawford, Chief  
North Carolina Office of EMS *Regan*

SUBJECT: Community Paramedicine Mobile Crisis Management Grant

DATE: December 15, 2014

The Division of Mental Health – Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS), in collaboration with the Office of EMS, has been pursuing grant funding to support EMS agencies who have provided advanced training for their paramedics and established partnerships with other community based providers that are able to successfully divert behavioral health consumers in crisis to alternative destinations other than local emergency departments. This funding is being provided through Federal Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grants directed toward small capacity program building grants and toward a direct fee-for-service reimbursement strategy for programs already in operation. Having DMH/DD/SAS recognizing Community Paramedicine Mobile Crisis Management initiatives is another step toward recognizing the value Community Paramedic programs offer to a broad range of our citizens in need of health care services.

Because there are limited funds available for this initial grant cycle, two kinds of funding are being made available. Established programs may be eligible for service dollar reimbursement via contracts between Local Management Entity-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCO) and the EMS agency. Also, programs who are in development are encouraged to apply for a capacity building grant by completing an Interest/Readiness Application through MH/DD/SAS. These funds are intended to support expenditures within the EMS agency that are directly related to successful development of a Community Paramedicine Mobile Crisis Management Service. Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to, development of policies, procedures, and protocols that will enhance effective triage and referral of behavioral health patients, costs associated with necessary training, development of data keeping systems required to report outcomes, facilitation of communication strategies among local partners.

A total of six awards of up to \$5,000.00 each are available for the current fiscal year ending on June 30, 2015. Awards will be accepted through March 31, 2015, and will be made on a first-come basis until the funding is exhausted. Funds will be distributed from the DMH/DD/SAS to the LME-MCO partner via an allocation letter that requires the LME-MCO to allocate the funding to the EMS partner and report on the specific goals achieved with the funding.

To be clear, the funds are being awarded to the LME-MCO to reimburse EMS agencies for expenses incurred by EMS. As DMH/DD/SAS implements this grant, it is important that our EMS agencies reach out to their community mental health partners to provide them with support as they make application for the funds that will ultimately support enhanced care to our mental health population and also off-set the costs expended by our EMS agencies.

**Office of Emergency Medical Services**

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov) • [www.ncems.org](http://www.ncems.org)

Phone: 919-855-3935 • Fax: 919-733-7021

Location: 1201 Umstead Drive • Dorothea Dix Hospital Campus • Raleigh, NC 27603

Mailing Address: 2707 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-2707

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