



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Fire Department  
**Department No.:** 031  
**For Agenda Of:** February 18, 2014  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:** 10 minutes  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** 3/5

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Michael W. Dyer, Fire Chief x5500  
Director  
Contact Info: Ray Navarro, Division Chief x5500  
**SUBJECT:** Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Services supplemental reimbursement program

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Select\_Concurrence

Other Concurrence: Select\_Other

As to form: Select\_Concurrence

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Select\_Concurrence Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors Authorize the Fire Chief to enter into agreements with the California Department of Health Care Services and the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, which will allow the Fire Department to participate in the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Services supplemental reimbursement program..

**Summary Text:**

California Welfare and Institutions Code 14105.94, enacted October 2, 2011, authorized the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Services (GEMT) supplemental reimbursement program. This voluntary Certified Public Expenditure based program provides additional funding to eligible governmental entities that provide Ground Emergency Medical Transportation services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The reimbursement amount is 50% of allowable total certified costs, as defined in State Plan Amendment 09-024. This program is retroactive under the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages amount for the time periods identified within the program.

**Background:**

Historically, reimbursements for ambulance transportation services provided for patients covered by the Medi-Cal program have been extremely low. As a result of this, a concerted effort was made within California to generate a plan and establish a method to allow public agencies to obtain a federal match up to 50% of their actual costs for providing these ground emergency medical transportation services.

Assembly Bill 678 (Statute of 2011) enacted the California Welfare and Institutions Code 14105.94 on October 2, 2011, providing State authority for this Certified Public Expenditure program. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved State Plan Amendment 09-024 on September 4, 2013, authorizing the federal share of the supplemental reimbursement payments based on uncompensated costs for Medi-Cal fee-for-service transports, effective January 30, 2010.

For a publicly owned Ground Emergency Medical Transportation service provider to be eligible for the program, the following requirements must be met, as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code § 14105.94:

- Provide Ground Emergency Medical Transportation services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries (further defined in State Plan Amendment 09-024),
- Be enrolled as a Medi-Cal provider for the period being claimed, and
- Are owned or operated by an eligible governmental entity, to include the state, a city, county, city and county, fire protection district, special district, community services district, health care district, or a federally recognized Indian tribe as these laws are in effect on January 30, 2010.

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department provides ground emergency transportation services (i.e. ambulance transports) at three fire stations: Station 17 at UCSB, Station 41 in Cuyama and Station 51 in Lompoc-Mission Hills. The remaining areas of the County are served by American Medical Response (AMR), a non-governmental entity. Eligible providers who choose to participate in the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation program must:

- Enter into a Provider Participation Agreement with the California Department of Health Care Services,
- Agree to reimburse the Department of Health Care Services for their allocated share of the administrative costs associated with overseeing the program, and
- Complete an Annual Participation Survey, indicating intention to participate in the specified fiscal year's Ground Emergency Medical Transportation reimbursement program.

The allocated share of the State's administrative costs associated with overseeing the program will be collected by the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District on behalf of the California Department of Health Care Services, necessitating the execution of a separate agreement with the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Select\_Budgeted

**Fiscal Analysis:**

As this is a new program, it is difficult to forecast the actual revenues to be received. However, County Fire staff estimate that the department could receive up to \$80,000 in additional annual revenues associated with this program. Also, as it is a voluntary program, the Fire Department could opt out at any time if the benefits received do not outweigh the costs to participate.

**Staffing Impacts:**

There are no staffing impacts associated with this agreement.

**Special Instructions:**

Please send a certified copy of the minute order to Santa Barbara County Fire Department, attention Linda Khachek.

**Attachments:**

- 1) Medi-Cal Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Services (GEMT) Supplemental Reimbursement Program Provider Participation Agreement
- 2) Agreement for Recovery of Administrative Costs for Implementation and Recovery of Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Payments

**Authored by:**

Ray Navarro, Division Chief, County of Santa Barbara Fire Department

**cc:**