

20-0973 - EMS language for HAC

(7) The Agency of Human Services (AHS) for Emergency Medical/Ambulance Services: \$3,000,000 is appropriated to AHS for Emergency Medical/Ambulance Services costs and financial assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic, which shall be allocated as follows:

(A)(i) \$400,000 for the necessary training and support of emergency medical personnel, including volunteers, which shall be transferred to the Department of Health for disbursement. In order to address the needs of Vermonters as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department, in consultation with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, shall use the monies expeditiously to provide funding for live and online training opportunities for emergency medical responders, emergency medical technicians, and advanced emergency medical technicians, and for other emergency medical personnel training-related purposes. The Department and the Advisory Committee shall prioritize training opportunities for volunteer emergency medical personnel to maximize the response capabilities of all areas in the State.

(B) \$500,000 for paramedic training, including paramedic certificate programs for prospective paramedics and continuing education opportunities for licensed paramedics, and recruitment. These funds shall be transferred to the Department of Health for disbursement.

(i) Funding under this subdivision (7)(B) shall be prioritized for training through a Vermont programs that include clinical and field internship work to be completed prior to December 30, 2020.

(ii) The Department may collaborate with the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, or similar entity, to disburse funding to approved paramedic training programs, to qualified applicants seeking a paramedic certificate, and to licensed paramedics pursuing continuing education opportunities.

(iii) The Department may allocate funds for recruitment of qualified paramedics to meet the needs of emergency medical service (EMS) and ambulance service providers in the State and ensure that emergency patient care and transportation services are available to Vermonters in all parts of the State. Such costs may include reimbursement for relocation, short term housing stipends pending relocation, reimbursement for costs associated with Vermont licensure, and other allowed costs.

(C) \$100,000 for AHS in coordination with the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) to engage through sole source contract one or more financial consultants to assist Vermont EMS and ambulance service providers with applications needed for federal provider relief funds related to coronavirus funding; State prospective payments related to coronavirus through the Agency of Human Services and the Department of Vermont Health Access; and other grant funding that may be available in response to the pandemic.

(D) \$2,000,000, of which five percent shall be reserved for extraordinary financial relief to Vermont EMS and ambulance service providers upon demonstrated need, and the remainder of which may be used to make EMS and ambulance service provider stabilization grants in a manner determined by AHS that recognizes the need for administrative simplicity and is proportionate to EMS and ambulance service provider organization size.

(E) On or before January 15, 2021, AHS and the Department of Health shall report to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Health and Welfare, and on Government Operations with an accounting of its use of the funds appropriated to AHS for disbursement by the Department pursuant to this subsection.