
**Report to
The Vermont Legislature**

**Overview of State Funding for EMS Training and Education
February 2024 Update**

Submitted to: House Committee on Health Care

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Overview of State Funding for EMS Training and Education

Introduction

Act 183 (2022) provided one-time funding in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health (Department) to provide training for emergency medical service (EMS) personnel.

State Funded Initial EMS Certification & Licensure Courses – One Time Funding

Since July 1, 2023, the Department has utilized one time funding to offer at no cost to participants certification and licensure courses across the state. The state partnered with several EMS centers of education and organizations to deliver these training and education courses. Between July 1st 2023, and June 30th 2024, eight Vermont Emergency First Responder (VEFR), seven Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), four Advanced EMT, and two paramedic courses have been completed, are in progress, or are scheduled to begin in the next several months.

As of February 2024, 104 individuals have been issued a state license that did not previously serve in the EMS workforce. 35 previously certified or licensed EMS clinicians are currently enrolled in, or have completed, a higher-level licensure course. These 139 students participated in both state funded and non-state funded courses.

The entirety of the one-time funding will be fully allocated prior to the end of June 2024. For a list of those certification and licensure courses that have been completed, and information related to the number of students and their progress towards state certification or licensure, refer to Table 1. For a list of those certification and licensure courses that are in progress, and the number of students enrolled in each course, refer to Table 2. For a list of those certification and licensure courses that are scheduled to begin no later than June 30, 2024, refer to Table 3.

It is important to note a student has 24 months from the end of a course to obtain NREMT certification, which is required for state licensure at the EMR, EMT, AEMT, and paramedic levels. While some students take their certification exam soon after the end of the course, others may choose to take more time to prepare. The total number of EMR, EMTs, AEMTs, and paramedics added to the workforce with the support of this funding may not be fully realized until late 2026.

Table 1.
State Funded Initial EMS Certification & Licensure Course Completed
(July 1, 2023 – February 14, 2024)

Grantee	Program	Course End Date	Students Enrolled	Students Completed the Course	Students Testing	State Certified or Licensed
<i>Certification Courses</i>						
Bennington Rescue	VEFR	12/28/2024	8	7	---	6
Bennington Rescue	VEFR	12/26/2024	6	6	---	3
Bennington Rescue	VEFR	10/10/2023	10	10	---	9
Bennington Rescue	VEFR	10/3/2023	10	10	---	10
Bennington Rescue	VEFR	9/25/2023	5	5	---	5
Vermont EMS Academy	VEFR	12/02/2023	7	7	---	6
Vermont EMS Academy	VEFR	02/10/2024	3	3	---	
Total:			46	45	---	39
<i>Licensure Courses</i>						
Bennington Rescue	EMT	2/9/2024	6	6	6	
Fairfax Rescue	EMT	12/20/2023	15	14	13	1
Fairfax Rescue	AEMT	02/08/2024	7	7	7	
Newport Ambulance	EMT	01/06/2024	18	13	13	
Total:			46	40	39	1
Combined Certification and Licensure Total:			92	85	---	40

Table 2.
State Funded Initial EMS Certification & Licensure Courses In Progress
(July 1, 2023 – February 14, 2024)

Grantee	Course Type	Course Start Date	Course End Date	Number of Students Enrolled
Newport Ambulance	Paramedic	09/01/2024	12/15/2025	3
University of Vermont Medical Center*	Paramedic	01/15/2024	06/01/2025	6
Vermont EMS Academy	EMR	11/06/2023	03/06/2024	7
Vermont EMS Academy	EMT	01/17/2024	05/22/2024	12
Vermont EMS Academy	AEMT	10/10/2023	03/14/2024	13
Vermont State Colleges	Paramedic	08/23/2023	12/15/2025	12
Total:				53

Table 3.
*State Funded Initial EMS Certification & Licensure Courses Scheduled
 (February 14, 2024 – June 30, 2024)*

Grantee	Course Type	Course Start Date	Course End Date
<i>Certification Course</i>			
Bennington Rescue	VEFR	2/17/2024	2/17/2024
<i>Licensure Courses</i>			
Bennington Rescue	AEMT	3/5/2024	6/25/2024
Fairfax Rescue	EMT	3/11/2024	6/26/2024
Kate Soons, LLC	RN to		
	EMT	05/2024	TBD
Newport Ambulance	EMT	3/4/2024	6/19/2024
Vermont EMS Academy	EMT	4/8/2024	8/21/2024
Vermont EMS Academy	AEMT	5/6/2024	10/17/2024

State Funded Continuing Education and Specialty Training Courses – One Time Funding

Since July 1, 2023, the Department has utilized one time funding to offer at no cost to participants EMS continuing education and specialty training courses. Examples include Tactical Emergency Casualty Care, Pediatric Emergency Care, Prehospital Trauma Life Support leadership training, and critical care continuing education. Since July 1, 2023, 10 courses serving 134 students have been completed. Refer to Table 4 for more information.

Table 4.
*State Funded EMS Continuing Education and Specialty Training Completed
 (July 1, 2023 – February 14, 2024)*

Grantee	Program	Course Status	Students
Bennington Rescue	Tactical Emergency Casualty Care	Completed	9
Bennington Rescue	Pediatric Emergency Care	Completed	6
Newport Ambulance	AHA BLS CPR Renewal	Completed	9
Newport Ambulance	Advanced Airway Management	Completed	24
Vermont EMS Academy	Prehospital Trauma Life Support	Completed	7
Vermont EMS Academy	Prehospital Trauma Life Support	Completed	12
Vermont EMS Academy	Prehospital Trauma Life Support	Completed	12
Vermont EMS Academy	Advanced Cardiac Life Support	Completed	9
Vermont EMS Academy	Leadership Training	Completed	8
UVM Medical Center	Critical Care Paramedic Continuing Education	Completed	38
Total:			134

Before June 30, 2024, an additional seven continuing education and specialty courses are scheduled to begin. Refer to Table 5 for additional information.

Table.5

State Funded EMS Continuing Education and Specialty Training Scheduled (February 15, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

Grantee	Program	Course Status
Bennington Rescue	Refresher	Scheduled
Health Department	EMS Conference	Scheduled
Kate Soons, LLC	EMS Skills Instructor	Scheduled
Kate Soons, LLC	Instructor Coordinator	Scheduled
Premier EMS Consulting	Community Paramedicine	Scheduled
Premier EMS Consulting	EMS Training Officer	Scheduled
Premier EMS Consulting	Instructor Coordinator	Scheduled

EMS Special Fund

The EMS Special Fund, established in 18 V.S.A. § 908, has been utilized to support a range of EMS training and education needs. This includes initial certification and licensure courses, continuing education, specialty courses such as critical care paramedic, and leadership training. Additionally, three EMS districts have been issued grants to reimburse training and education expenses during 2023.

At its peak, the EMS Special Fund had a balance of \$686,090.72. To date, \$584,042.00 has been obligated across eight contracts and six grants for initial certification and licensure courses, continuing education, specialty courses, and leadership training. The Department is holding in reserve \$90,000.00 until February 28, 2024, to allow EMS districts that have not yet applied for these funds to do so, which can be used to reimburse the costs for training and education expenses incurred between January and December of 2023. Currently, a balance of \$12,048.72 is unobligated. If no other EMS districts submit for a grant, the unobligated balance will increase to \$102,048.72, and become available to use for EMS training and education as of March 1, 2024.

Looking forward to 2025, we expect a portion of the \$117,000.00 obligated to EMS districts to become unobligated as of March 1st, 2025. That amount will be contingent upon the number of EMS districts that apply for a \$9,000.00 grant. In 2020, eight EMS districts applied for reimbursement, followed by five in 2021, and three in 2022 and 2023. With the Department taking the lead in funding EMS education across the state, this has relieved many EMS districts from the obligation to do so.

For context, the average cost of an EMT class is \$15,000.00, and has a student enrollment of 14. An AEMT class costs \$18,000.00, and a student enrollment of 12. The state learning management system has an annual cost of \$120,000.00.

EMS Licensing

During the last three years, state funding for EMS education has contributed to sustaining the EMS workforce. A combination of funding from the EMS Special Fund and one-time funding has created the opportunity for many Vermonters to take at no cost certification and licensure courses, allowing for more equitable access to EMS education.

The combined total of certified and licensed EMS clinicians has steadily increased over the last three years, and currently exceeds 3,200 individuals. Referring to Table 6, the primary driver behind this increase is the VEFR certification, first introduced in 2022. This entry level certification has proved to be an effective means of strengthening first response capability, supplementing ambulance staffing, and for some individuals, the launching point to higher levels of licensure.

While there are more EMTs in the system now than at any time previously in the last three years, a review of the licensing data shows the EMT licensure level has experienced the greatest degree of annual variability. This is due to clinicians gaining a higher licensure level and attrition.

Since January 2021, the number of Advanced EMTs and paramedics has modestly increased. With the introduction of state funded EMS courses in July 2022, the total number of advanced life support clinicians (AEMTs and paramedics) has increased by 84 (7.4%). The majority of those are paramedics.

While many licensure courses have been paid for by the state, others are not. Currently, state funded and non-state funded licensure courses are primarily sustaining the EMS workforce at or near historical levels, with limited growth in the number of advanced life support clinicians.

Not all certification and licensure courses are paid for with one time funding or the EMS Special Fund. Some entities, such as an EMS district, or an EMS service, choose to host their own course(s). In those cases, the course tuition is paid for by the host organization, the student, or the organization the student is affiliated with.

Table 6.
 Number of State Issued EMS Certifications, Licenses, and Endorsements
 (January 2021 – January 2024)

	01/2021	07/2021	01/2022	07/2022	01/2023	07/2023	01/2024
<i>Certification</i>							
VEFR				208	287	398	525
<i>Licensure</i>							
EMR	180	158	114	119	83	92	77
EMT	1,396	1,337	1,399	1,293	1,399	1,245	1,404
AEMT	718	663	650	736	741	723	751
Paramedic	389	367	390	387	393	413	456
Total:	2,683	2,525	2,553	2,535	2,616	2,473	2,688
Combined Total:	2,683	2,525	2,553	2,743	2,903	2,871	3,213
<i>Endorsements</i>							
Critical Care Paramedic	79	82	84	56	57	67	64
Skills Instructor					17	16	17
Instructor					42	49	60
Coordinator							
Senior Instructor					6	12	13