

EMS Local Projects Grant application deadline is May 28, 2013

The application for fiscal year (FY) 2014 Local Projects Grant (LPG) funding is now available. You can download the application (called a Request for Proposal, or RFP) from the Texas Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD). Go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/LPGannouncement.shtm for information and the link to the ESBD site.

- Application deadline is **May 28, 2013, at 2:00 P.M. C.D.T.**

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Applications received by email or fax will not be considered.

- Eligible applicants: Department-licensed EMS providers, department-registered first responder organizations, Regional EMS/Trauma Advisory Councils (RACs), EMS education organizations and prehospital injury prevention organizations. Organizations must be a legal entity under state statutes

and maintain good standing with DSHS and other state and federal programs. Detailed requirements are listed in the RFP.

- Projects funded through LPGs include EMS personnel certification training; specialty training related to prehospital health care management; communication equipment; patient care equipment, including ambulances and non-disposable supplies; injury-prevention projects; and continuing education programs. We recently began funding accreditation fees

paid to CoAEMSP and CAAHEP for department-approved paramedic education programs seeking initial CoAEMSP accreditation.

Accreditation fees paid prior to the LPG contract start date or after the contract end date will not be eligible for reimbursement. Refer to the RFP for details.

- Frequently asked questions from previous years are included on the RFP in Appendix G. The deadline to ask new questions concerning the RFP has passed; however, all new questions and answers submitted before the deadline are posted on the Electronic State Business Daily website. Go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/LPGannouncement.shtm for information and the link to the ESBD site.

Maximize your funding through data submission

Attention EMS providers: Ever wonder why some of your EMS runs are not counted toward the number of “emergency health care runs” used for funding calculations? The answer may be a simple data-entry error. Reports generated from the Texas EMS/Trauma Registry are used to help calculate funding totals. A common problem happens when “unknown” is chosen for the “county of occurrence” field. Although “unknown” is an allowable response in the registry software, it creates an *unusable* record for that particular run. Why? The answer is based in funding rules.

Texas Administrative code §157.130 and §157.131 require EMS allotment and allocation of funds to be calculated by county. So, if the county is not listed for an emergency run, then it cannot be properly allotted and allocated. How often does this happen? Enough to make a significant difference in funding: in fiscal year 2013, 284,958 emergency care runs

were excluded from the total emergency care run count. Certainly many of those exclusions were the result of “unknown” counties of origin.

Your next question might be how can this happen? The answer to that question is found in the intricacies of any large database system. Answers can be used in different ways for different reports, so although “unknown” is an acceptable answer to the question of “county of occurrence,” it creates a record that cannot be used in the funding counts. Because an acceptable answer was entered, the database will report that the entry is “ACCEPTED”, but that does not mean the same as “APPROVED”. A record is accepted when data is entered, but the record may not contain sufficient data elements (e.g., county of occurrence) to determine if the run meets approval to count toward funding. In the future, the database will be able to generate a report that identifies data elements that have a “null” value, such as when unknown is entered for the county of occurrence. But

for now, just be sure to enter the county whenever possible—your funding totals depend on it.

Currently and in past years, DSHS has allowed EMS providers to submit an affidavit for reporting emergency health care runs. That affidavit has been used in place of or to correct EMS/Trauma Registry run counts. However, the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems expects to eventually discontinue the use of affidavits for funding purposes. The timeline for the discontinuation of affidavits has not been determined. Look for additional information soon.

The new Texas EMS/Trauma Registry expects full functionality, including NEMSIS version 3 compliance, by 2014. For questions regarding the Texas EMS/Trauma Registry, contact staff at www.dshs.state.tx.us/injury/contacts.shtm. For information regarding funding requirements see the OEMS/TS website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/SB102Elig.shtm. You can also contact Linda Reyes at linda.reyes@dshs.state.tx.us for questions regarding funding.