



2022 Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Informed Community Self-Determination (ICSD) Program Grant-Supported Offering for Up to Two Communities

WHAT IS BEING OFFERED AT NO CHARGE TO THE COMMUNITIES SELECTED:

The opportunity for community leaders in one or two rural areas of Maine in calendar year 2022 to:

- have their ambulance and other EMS services **evaluated** by Maine-based “Guides to EMS”,
- have these experts work with EMS and community leaders to **develop options** to the current type and level of service, including their impact on taxpayers (mill rate/other costs),
- have the EMS Guides **facilitate an informational program** for leaders, taxpayers and others affected on the EMS issues that exist and the options for addressing them including costs, and
- have the EMS Guides **help leaders/residents decide which option they want** using a local decision-making process (special town meeting, for example).

The cost of this offering will be paid for by a grant from the Maine Health Access Foundation (“MeHAF”). It is being administered by the Friends of EMS for Maine (“Friends”), the group that created and supports the Maine EMS Memorial and Education site next to the Statehouse in Augusta.

WHO SHOULD CONSIDER APPLYING?

Informed Community Self-Determination (ICSD) is intended to help a community whose ambulance service is experiencing difficulty in providing adequate and reliable response. It may be in jeopardy of closing altogether, and there are few if any alternative services from which to easily choose.

The ICSD program works best for a rural community served by a single ambulance service and consisting of one or a few towns (the smaller the number of towns, the easier the decision-making process will be). The ICSD process also can work well for a larger area, but if selected it may be the only program in 2022. The Friends group, MeHAF representatives and EMS leaders will select the successful applicant.

Communities that wish to be considered must agree in advance to provide access to operational, staffing, governance, financial and other records of the ambulance service’s operations to date, and to hold such decision-making meetings at the conclusion of the program as are necessary to decide on an option for EMS service in the near future. This not an agreement to increase the cost of EMS for the community, though that may be an option the community selects. It may be the case that an option is selected that provides a lesser level and cost of EMS; in that case at least the community will know what it will be getting and at what cost. ***For the two 2022 programs the community’s final decision-making meeting(s) may need to be a special town meeting or selectboard meeting as it must be completed by the end of January, 2023. However, additional programs beyond the two 2022 programs will not have this restriction (see the bold/italicized explanation below), so should not discourage later applications.***

HOW DO WE FIND OUT MORE OR START THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

Easy! Contact the President of the Friends, Kevin McGinnis (207-512-0975 or kevin@mcginnis.ws). He is also the coordinator of the ICSD project. He will provide the application and explain the process in detail. ***Applications will be considered on a rolling basis (considered in order received) beginning in April, 2022 for the two 2022 projects. Maine legislation now pending may provide funding for additional projects in and beyond 2022, so communities with a need should consider applying even beyond May, 2022. These additional projects can tailor final decision-making meetings to the scheduling convenience of the municipalities of the community involved.***

Additional information may be found in a white paper “*Engaging Communities to Preserve Access to Emergency Medical Services in Rural Maine*” by the Maine Rural Health Action Network at:

<https://nerha.memberclicks.net/assets/White%20Paper.Engaging%20Communities%20to%20Preserve%20Access%20to%20Emergency%20Medical%20Services%20in%20Rural%20Maine.October%202020.FINAL.pdf>

An account of one Maine community’s experience (St. George) with ICSD may be found at:

<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/rural-monitor/ems-self-determination/>.