
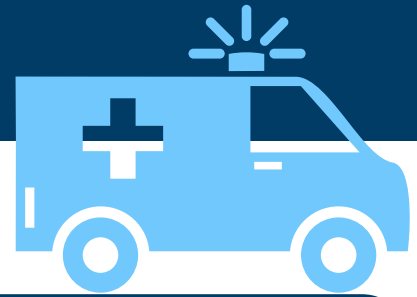



Rural EMS



Rural EMS providers are faced with greater physical distances when responding to calls, difficulty recruiting and retaining its workforce, and higher fixed costs over a lower volume of services.

Four out of five counties (82%) have at least one ambulance desert, being 25 minutes or more from services. This comprises 4.5 million people in impacted areas.

Challenges faced in providing EMS in rural areas are directly linked to issues involving reimbursement, financial capitol, workforce supply, and training standards.



Over 50% of rural EMS agencies are staffed by volunteers. The EMS volunteer pool is shrinking nationally.

The national average from the time of a 911 call to arrival on scene doubles with nearly 1 of 10 encounters waiting almost 30 minutes for the arrival of EMS personnel.

NRHA Supported Legislation

Protecting Access to Ground Ambulance Medical Services Act (S. 1673/H.R. 1666)

*Senators Cortez Masto (D-NV), Collins (R- ME),
Reps. Wenstrup (R-OH), Sewell (D-AL)*

Extend temporary additional
reimbursement for ground
ambulance services in rural
areas to ensure access to vital
emergency services.

Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement for On-Scene Care and Support Act (S.3236)

*Senators Welch (D-VT), Sanders (I-VT), Smith
(D-MN)*

Ensure Medicare reimbursement for
care provided by EMS on-scene,
regardless of whether or not
transportation is provided.

PARA-EMT Act (H.R. 6433)

*Reps. Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA) and
Finstad (R-MN)*

Address EMS staffing shortages
and make it easier for
experienced veterans to
transition from medics to
becoming certified paramedics
and EMTs.

SIREN Reauthorization Act (S.265/H.R. 4646)

Senators Collins (R-ME) and Durbin (D-IL)

Extend funding for Supporting and
Improving Rural EMS Needs (SIREN)
grants to rural fire and EMS agencies
nationwide to support EMS agencies in
training and recruiting staff, conducting
certification courses, and purchasing
equipment, including naloxone to
address the opioid epidemic.

Protecting Air Ambulance Services for Americans Act (S. 1803/H.R. 3691)

*Reps. Estes (R-KS), DelBene (D-WA), Sens.
Bennet (D-CO), and Blackburn (R-TN.)*

Improve access to emergency air
medical services that are critical for
saving lives, particularly for Americans
living in rural communities, using data
collected under the No Surprises Act
to update Medicare reimbursement
rates for emergency air services.