

State of Tennessee Coronavirus Relief Fund Emergency Medical Services Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions Revised January 4, 2021

Please note that the most recent additions to the FAQ are found at the end of each section.

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General

1. Who is eligible to participate in this program?

Answer

All EMS ambulance providers licensed, owned, and operated in the State of Tennessee are eligible to receive reimbursements through this program. This program will provide relief funding to support Tennessee's efforts to mandate the use of ultraviolet ("UV") light systems in all ambulances statewide.

2. Are recipients required to apply for funds?

Answer

Yes, recipients will be required to submit an RFF through the Tennessee CARES Act Management System with the appropriate documents in order to receive reimbursement funds.

3. How much funding will each EMS provider receive?

Answer

Each licensed ambulance owned and operated in the State of Tennessee is eligible and will receive up to \$575.00 total to cover equipment and installation costs.

4. How much funding has been approved to achieve this program?

Answer

The Unified Command Center and Department of Health ("TDH") have allocated approximately \$867,000.00 for this program.

5. Will there be any advances of funds or will all funds be disbursed on a reimbursement basis?

Answer

There will be no advance of funds. All funds will be reimbursed after supporting documentation is provided.

6. What substantiating documentation for program expenses will be required?

Answer

Supporting documentation for expenses will be required. Such support may include, but is not limited to, receipts, invoices, and proof of payment. Recipients should also include a detailed narrative with their reimbursement request describing the expense incurred and why the expense(s) was necessary due to COVID-19.

7. How will I receive the payment for the reimbursement?

Answer

Payments will be made in accordance with the recipient's account settings associated with its Supplier ID in the State of Tennessee's Edison system.

8. What is the deadline to submit RFFs and spend the funds?

Answer

All contracts for UV lights and related installation should contain language indicating delivery and installation by March 31, 2021. **All RFFs should be submitted by March 31, 2021.** Any RFFs submitted after March 31 will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Any additional documentation needed to support the expenses requested for reimbursement can be submitted no later than April 16, 2021.

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9. Is there a cap on the amount of reimbursement requests?

Answer

Yes, each ambulance may receive up to \$575.00 to cover equipment costs used to implement UV light systems as required by the State of Tennessee.

10. Can recipients receive and utilize the Emergency Medical Services Ambulance Program Fund in conjunction with other federal funds? (specifically, HHS Provider Relief Fund)

Answer

No, the State is required to ensure that CRF dollars do not duplicate any prior federal funds received in response to COVID-19. If ambulance operators received the HHS Provider Relief Fund, the EMS service provider will need to demonstrate that they have fully exhausted the HHS funding before the state provides them with reimbursement for UV light implementation.

Additionally, the State of Tennessee will need to confirm that assisted providers have not utilized prior funding for ultraviolet light deployment (or alternatively, in the event a provider has been able to use prior funding for this purpose, the State will need to ensure that the total cost of deployment is no less than the combined total funding that is utilized across all funding sources).

Eligible Expenses

1. What expenses are eligible under the EMS program?

Answer

The State of Tennessee will reimburse ambulance providers for the initial installation of UV lighting equipment that complies with Tennessee regulations regarding such devices in each licensed ambulance. Maintenance costs are not eligible for reimbursement under this program. Rather, only the initial installation costs will be covered under this program.

2. Can recipients use the funds to reimburse eligible expenses incurred prior to this program?

Answer

Grant funds may be used to cover eligible costs incurred from March 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021.

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