

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Robert R. Lehnhardt, Director of Finance/Treasurer
Brandon Kowalke, Grant Coordinator

DATE: September 20, 2021

SUBJECT: **Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Program**

Request

Adopt resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Wheaton and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services for reimbursement of unrecovered costs of ambulance transports provided to Medicaid patients. This IGA is a required for the City to be eligible for GEMT funding.

Strategic Priority

Financial Stability – Identify revenue enhancements: (1) Diversify and grow revenue sources to reduce the City's reliance on property taxes and state-shared revenues and (2) Seek and leverage federal and state grant opportunities. So long as the GEMT program is supported by the federal government, it will be an annual revenue source for the City going forward.

Background

The Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program is a supplemental Federal funding program that allows Illinois fire agencies that perform emergency medical transports for Medicaid patients to submit for additional reimbursement of unrecovered costs associated with those transports. Currently, the State reimburses municipalities a set amount for Medicaid transports, regardless of the actual cost of providing those services. Through this program the federal government will pay to the State the difference between the set amount and the actual costs incurred for the Medicaid transports. Once the State receives the funds from the federal government, it will reimburse the City approximately fifty percent (50%) of the funds received.



Fiscal Impact

The City’s vendor that bills and collects ambulance fees, Paramedic Billing Services, has provided an initial estimate based on the City’s ambulance fee charges and existing Medicaid payments received in 2020. This analysis shows the City would have been eligible to receive up to \$167,000 through the GEMT Program for services that were rendered in 2020. After completing and submitting the GEMT cost analysis required for the program, the City anticipates receiving this amount annually starting in 2022.

2020 GEMT Estimate

Medicaid Transport Fees for Service	-	Medicaid Payments	=	Unreimbursed Fees for Service	x 50% =	City’s Estimate GEMT Payment
\$455,930		\$121,742		\$334,188		<u>\$167,094</u>

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Wheaton and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services for the GEMT Program. This will allow the City to apply for and receive reimbursement for uncovered ambulance costs associated with all transports provided to Medicaid patients beginning January 1, 2022. Engaging in the GEMT reimbursement program will provide an ongoing revenue source to the City for ambulance service costs. This reduces the reliance of those services on the City’s General Fund and, by association, property tax revenue. A resolution approving the IGA is attached for your consideration. Staff recommends adoption of the resolution as submitted.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE
AND FAMILY SERVICES AND
CITY OF WHEATON
2021-20-__**

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (the “Department” or “HFS”) and the **City of Wheaton** (Local Government) pursuant to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, 5 ILCS 220/1 *et seq.* (the “IGA Act”), hereby enter into this Intergovernmental Agreement (the “Agreement”) in connection with supplemental ambulance rates. HFS and the Local Government are collectively referred to herein as “Parties” or individually as a “Party.”

ARTICLE I INTRODUCTION

1.01 Background. Article XII of the Illinois Public Aid Code, 305 ILCS 5/5 *et seq.* (the “Public Aid Code”), authorizes the Department to make use of, aid and co-operate with State and local governmental agencies, and the IGA Act provides for cooperation between units of government. Local Government operates an emergency ambulance service (Provider) that is enrolled in the Medical Programs (as defined below) and provides Covered Ambulance Services (as defined below) to individuals eligible for benefits under the Medical Programs (as defined below); however, the costs of providing the referenced services is not covered by the fee schedule pursuant to which the Department and its agents pay for such services.

1.02 Purpose. In order to provide greater cost coverage to Provider for Covered Ambulance Services, the Parties enter into this Agreement.

1.03 Definitions

- (a) Agent means Managed Care Organizations and Administrative Services Organizations.
- (b) ALS means Advanced Life Support billed under CPT Code A0427.
- (c) BLS means Basic Life Support billed under CPT Code A0429.
- (d) Base Rate means the fee-schedule rate for Provider on the Department’s rate sheet for the Provider as of September 30, 2021.
- (e) Covered Ambulance Services or Services means all ALS and BLS emergency ground ambulance services trips reimbursable under the Illinois Medicaid state plan, provided to beneficiaries of Medical Programs, and does not include mileage or oxygen.
- (f) Interim Rate means the payments to Provider for Covered Ambulance Services in addition to the Base Rate and calculated pursuant to Article III.
- (g) Medical Programs means programs administered by the Department under the Public Aid Code, the Children’s Health Insurance Program Act (215 ILCS 106/1 *et seq.*) and the Covering All Kids Health Insurance Act (215 ILCS 170/1 *et seq.*).
- (h) Quarterly Invoice means an itemized statement provided to the Local Government by the Department regarding the agreed upon transfer amount pursuant to Article II.
- (i) Rate Year means calendar year.

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ARTICLE II

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSFER

2.01 Local Government will transfer to the Department on a quarterly basis an amount equal to 50% of the total Interim Rates, as described in Article III, received by Provider from the Department and its agents for the prior quarter.

2.02 The Department will send a Quarterly Invoice to Local Government for the transfer of 50% of the supplemental payments described in Article III and transfer shall be made within 30 days after the receipt of the Quarterly Invoice by the Local Government.

ARTICLE III INTERIM RATES FOR SERVICES

3.01 Calculation. The Interim Rate will be determined as follows:

- (a) Department will calculate, using data from each Provider’s most recent timely filed approved cost report, Provider’s total costs for Covered Ambulance Services.
- (b) Using data from the cost report and the Department’s data on Medicaid paid claims for covered ambulance services and provider’s charges for those services, the Department will calculate an interim rate for ALS and BLS services that covers the cost above the Base rate for those services.

3.02 Reimbursement. The Department shall pay or cause its agents to pay Interim Rates to Provider for Covered Ambulance Services pursuant to this Article III in addition to payments made at the Provider’s Base Rate. The Interim and Base Rates will be added together during claims processing and paid as a single rate.

3.03 Cost Reports. The Department will annually notify Provider of the cost report template to be used and provide instructions and a due date for submission in order for Provider to be eligible for an Interim Rate the next Rate Year.

3.04 Reconciliation. Once the Department has a cost report covering a Rate Year in which Provider received an Interim Rate, it will calculate the actual cost per trip during the Rate Year and determine whether the Interim Rate underpaid or overpaid Provider for the cost of the Services. If Provider was underpaid, the Department will make a further payment to cover costs. If Provider was overpaid, the Department will notify Provider of the net amount due to the Department, taking into account amounts already transferred to the Department pursuant to Article II.

ARTICLE IV TERM

4.01 Term. This Agreement shall commence January 1, 2022, provided Provider’s Cost Report was received by the Department on or before October 1, 2021, and shall continue in subsequent years provided all program requirements are met until otherwise terminated by the Parties.

ARTICLE V TERMINATION

5.01 Termination on Notice. This Agreement may be terminated by either Party for any or no reason upon thirty (30) days’ prior written notice to the other Party.

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5.02 Termination for Cause. In the event either Party breaches this Agreement and fails to cure such breach within ten (10) days' written notice thereof from the non-breaching Party, the non-breaching Party may terminate this Agreement upon written notice to the breaching Party.

5.03 Availability of Appropriation; Sufficiency of Funds. This Agreement is contingent upon and subject to the availability of sufficient funds. The Department may terminate or suspend this Agreement, in whole or in part, without advance notice and without penalty or further payment being required, if (i) sufficient funds for this Agreement have not been appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department by the State or the Federal funding source, (ii) the Governor or the Department reserves funds, or (iii) the Governor or the Department determines that funds will not or may not be available for payment. The Department shall provide notice, in writing, to Provider of any such funding failure and its election to terminate or suspend this Agreement as soon as practicable. Any suspension or termination pursuant to this Section will be effective upon the date of the written notice unless otherwise indicated.

ARTICLE VI MISCELLANEOUS

6.01 Renewal. This Agreement may be renewed for additional periods by mutual consent of the Parties, expressed in writing and signed by the Parties.

6.02 Amendments. This Agreement may be modified or amended at any time during its term by mutual consent of the Parties, expressed in writing and signed by the Parties.

6.03 Applicable Law and Severability. This Agreement shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the State of Illinois. If any provision of this Agreement shall be held or deemed to be or shall in fact be inoperative or unenforceable as applied in any particular case in any jurisdiction or jurisdictions or in all cases because it conflicts with any other provision or provisions hereof or any constitution, statute, ordinance, rule of law or public policy, or for any reason, such circumstance shall not have the effect of rendering any other provision or provisions contained herein invalid, inoperative or unenforceable to any extent whatsoever. The invalidity of any one or more phrases, sentences, clauses, or sections contained in this Agreement shall not affect the remaining portions of this Agreement or any part thereof. In the event that this Agreement is determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall be terminated immediately.

6.04 Records Retention. The Parties shall maintain for a minimum of six (6) years from the later of the date of final payment under this Agreement, or the expiration of this Agreement, adequate books, records and supporting documents to comply with the Illinois State Records Act. If an audit, litigation or other action involving the records is begun before the end of the six-year period, the records shall be retained until all issues arising out of the action are resolved.

6.05 No Personal Liability. No member, official, director, employee or agent of either Party shall be individually or personally liable in connection with this Agreement.

6.06 Assignment; Binding Effect. This Agreement, or any portion thereof, shall not be assigned by any of the Parties without the prior written consent of the other Parties. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and shall be binding upon the Parties and their respective successors and permitted assigns.

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6.07 Precedence. In the event there is a conflict between this Agreement and any of the exhibits hereto, this Agreement shall control. In the event there is a conflict between this Agreement and relevant statute(s) or Administrative Rule(s), the relevant statute(s) or rule(s) shall control.

6.08 Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties; no promises, terms, or conditions not recited, incorporated or referenced herein, including prior agreements or oral discussions, shall be binding upon either Party.

6.09 Notices. All written notices, requests and communications may be made by electronic mail to the e-mail addresses set forth below.

To HFS: Mary.Doran@illinois.gov
 Kiran.Mehta@illinois.gov

To Local Government: blehnhardt@wheaton.il.us
 bkowalke@wheaton.il.us

6.10 Headings. Section and other headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and are not intended to describe, interpret, define or limit the scope, extent or intent of this Agreement or any provision hereof.

6.11 Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be considered to be one and the same agreement, binding on all Parties hereto, notwithstanding that all Parties are not signatories to the same counterpart. Duplicated signatures, signatures transmitted via facsimile, or signatures contained in a Portable Document Format (PDF) document shall be deemed original for all purposes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

City of Wheaton

SIGNATURE: _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES

THERESA EAGLESON

DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

RESOLUTION R-2021-

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WHEATON AND ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES RELATED TO ENHANCED REIMBURSEMENT FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services has proposed an Intergovernmental Agreement to provide enhanced rates for ambulance services as defined in that Intergovernmental Agreement (hereinafter “IGA”); and

WHEREAS, in order to be eligible to receive enhanced reimbursement for ambulance services, the City of Wheaton recognizes the need for an IGA between the City and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wheaton is a “Participating Municipal Ambulance Provider” as defined in the IGA; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wheaton has concluded that entering into the IGA provides greater cost recovery of ambulance services provided by the City is in the best interest of the public, health, safety, and welfare of the City of Wheaton.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Wheaton, DuPage County, Illinois, that:

- (1) The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Wheaton and Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services for the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Program, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A; and
- (2) City staff is directed and authorized to undertake any and all necessary acts to facilitate effectuation of the IGA.

ADOPTED this 20th day of September 2021.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes:
Nays:
Absent: