

EMS Local Projects Grant applications available soon

Does your EMS organization need financial assistance to purchase equipment, non-expendable supplies or other prehospital health care necessities? Apply for a Local Projects Grant (LPG). This grant program supports and improves the development of the Texas Emergency Health Care System and increases the availability and quality of emergency prehospital health care. Approximately \$1 million will be available for fiscal year 2013 grants.

DSHS expects the next Local Projects Grant request for proposal (RFP) to be available soon. The RFP posted this spring is the document you will use to request funds available in fiscal year 2013.

If your organization is awarded funds, you cannot purchase your items until the start date of your contract with DSHS, which we expect may be in October 2012.

Who is eligible for LPG funds?

Department-licensed EMS providers, department-registered first responder organizations, Regional EMS/Trauma Advisory Councils (RACs), EMS education organizations and prehospital injury prevention organizations may be eligible to receive funds.

What types of projects are funded through LPG?

In the past, we have awarded funds for 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.

Check our website this spring for the open RFP announcement: www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems. We will announce the open RFP through the email notification system available on our web home page. Licensed EMS providers and registered first responder organizations can expect to receive a postcard announcement via USPS. Also see our webpage for more answers to your questions about LPG: www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/LPGfunding.shtm.

New Trauma Registry update

DSHS and the contracted developer, Consilience, continue to make significant progress on building the new Texas Trauma Registry. The plan for conversion of the legacy data and the migration of this data into the new system has been finished. The data conversion will be tested in February and March to verify that all the data was converted properly. A change request has been approved for the addition of a web-portal interface for customers to register for new accounts or to make administrative changes to existing accounts. A custom solution was found to link EMS and hospital records within the system while maintaining

the confidentiality of the data by allowing only the entity who reported the data to see the data they reported. DSHS is currently working on the specifications for the reports that will be available in the new system for customers to utilize. The DSHS Injury Program staff will be able to create many simple reports independently, and Consilience will create the complex reports that require special programming. DSHS continues to work with the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) database project to update the new Texas system with reference code lists and data validation rules that will be compatible with NEMSIS 3.2.

—Tammy Sajak

GETAC motions

No motions were voted on by the Governor's EMS and Trauma Council at the February 10 meeting in Austin. A draft of the full minutes will be available on the DSHS website before the next scheduled meeting in May 2012.

TEXAS EMS CERTIFICATIONS AS OF FEBRUARY 7, 2012	
ECA	2,982
EMT	32,204
EMT-I	3,857
EMT-P	15,409
LP	6,050
TOTAL	60,502
BASIC COORDINATOR	114
ADVANCED COORDINATOR	227
INSTRUCTOR	2,168