

Texas EMS Trauma News

Special Edition 2022

Volume 9 No. 4

Office of EMS Trauma Systems
Texas Department of State Health Services
dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/



Welcome to Team Texas EMS

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the pandemic, Texas EMS providers watched as hundreds of millions of dollars were dedicated to staffing hospitals while EMS agencies faced the same challenges and needs.

In fairness, the need was great at the hospitals, and the national shortage of EMTs was so profound that there likely would have been no additional staffing to send even if EMS had access to supplemental funding.



*By: Butch Oberhoff
Director of Governmental Affairs
of Acadian Ambulance
President-Elect of TEMSA*

The Texas EMS Alliance (TEMSA) conference in August of 2021 brought together EMS leaders representing agencies of all sizes and provider types from across the state. The TEMSA Board of Directors chose to follow our typical mantra and focus on the 80% of things that affect us all rather than the 20% of things on which we would probably never agree. The workforce was – and is – the most significant challenge for the industry.

While the pandemic made the staffing problem worse, we knew it was not the sole cause of the EMS workforce shortage. We also knew that throwing band-aid money at each agency would not provide a long-term solution. Meanwhile, the state legislature was working on determining the best use of funds brought into Texas through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

continued on next page



In a very short timeframe, TEMSA developed a thoughtful and comprehensive plan to address several issues related to the EMS workforce and requested funding to provide:

CAMPAIGN

A recruitment campaign executed by a professional public relations agency

WEBSITE

A supporting interactive website with information on jobs, education opportunities, and contact persons by region

SCHOLARSHIPS

Tuition scholarships for all EMT levels

TRAINING

Training equipment and tools

INCENTIVES

Incentives for EMS teaching entities with high National Registry pass rates

At all times, TEMSA was mindful of creating a plan that would deliver results long after the funds were spent. We were clear in our message to the legislature. We were not asking for funding for any EMS provider; instead, we were asking the state to partner with us on a workforce development solution. That seemed to resonate with the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees. Even with all the pressures and demands on the Texas legislature for ARPA funding, the members fully funded our request for \$21.7 million for EMS recruitment and education. Immediately thereafter, stakeholders from the provider and education communities began meeting with representatives of the Regional Advisory Councils to discuss suggestions for implementation.

“ We must tell our story.

And make no mistake, it's a great story to tell! EMS offers an opportunity to embark on a healthcare career with employment in a matter of months and potential annual earnings of \$70,000 or more within two years. The Texas legislature has made this opportunity even more attractive and accessible by funding education scholarships for Texans who want to serve their neighbor by working or volunteering for a local EMS provider. Our hope is that the recruitment campaign, tuition scholarships, and education incentives will provide a short-term workforce boost and foster a long-term workforce pipeline.



Education

Scholarships are provided by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to approved EMS Education programs or licensed EMS providers. Coverage includes books, materials, and one NREMT exam fee.

Find lists for EMS education providers, as well as in-person, hybrid and, online education courses on our [website](#).



Once the student completes their course, they have 90 days from the last official class day to complete the EMS certification process and start serving 96 hours a month, volunteer or paid for an actively licensed EMS Provider for:

One year	Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
Two Years	Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)
Two Years	Paramedic Education

Scholarships

Scholarships are available based on documented need. Special attention is given to rural and underserved areas within Texas.

Emergency Medical Technician

\$2000 per student completing an EMT class

Advanced Emergency Medical Technician

\$3200 per student completing an AEMT class

Paramedic

\$8000 per student completing a Paramedic class.

Incentives

Qualified EMS education programs or EMS providers are eligible for incentive payments for students who pass NREMT on first attempt.

Incentive payments:

- \$100 for EMT
- \$150 for AEMT
- \$200 for Paramedic

Texas EMS Trauma News

Special Edition 2022

Volume 9 No. 4

Website

The Team Texas EMS [website](#) offers a comprehensive look at the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Workforce Recruitment and Retention initiative

Here you will find information on:

- EMS Education Scholarships
- EMS Career Options
- Education Programs in Texas
- EMS Certification Process
- A Look at EMS in Texas



Team Texas EMS

There is a high demand for EMS professionals. You can start working in as little as 15 weeks, full-time, part-time, or volunteer.

Careers and Opportunities Goals:

- Increase personnel actively working on an ambulance
- Reduce the burden in rural/frontier and underserved areas
- Retain currently certified personnel



Texas Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) manage EMS and trauma services across Texas.

Contact your RAC for local information on:

- EMS Careers
- Jobs
- Education
- Scholarships
- Volunteer Opportunities

Interactive Map



Use the [map](#) to find and contact a Regional Advisory Council for EMS employment and education opportunities by area.

Texas EMS Trauma News

Special Edition 2022

Volume 9 No. 4

Links

Team Texas EMS

dshs.texas.gov/Team-Texas-EMS/

Visit the Team Texas EMS website for up-to-date information and resources.

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs

View commonly asked questions for RACs, EMS education programs, providers, and students.

Interactive Map

RAC Contacts

Find your Regional Advisory Council for EMS employment and education opportunities in your area.

Education, Training and Certification

Information and Resources

Learn more about EMS education, training and certification.

Questions? Contact us at Team-Texas-EMS@dshs.texas.gov.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services