

2021 County Government Priorities

Emergency Medical Services Crisis Solutions

Pennsylvania's communities are wrestling with a decline or outright lack of emergency services. Counties and the commonwealth are uniquely positioned to work together with their municipal partners to develop and implement EMS policy solutions that include securing sustainable resources and support systemic capacity building to meet the needs of our citizens.



Emergency medical services (EMS) in Pennsylvania are in crisis, affirmed by findings of multiple studies and most prominently in the 2004 SR 60 report, and reaffirmed in the report of the legislature's SR 6 Commission, released in 2018. CCAP membership has been engaged in discussions on ways that counties can help address the issues raised in these reports, including the lack of emergency services in many Pennsylvania communities. As such, CCAP launched its EMS Task Force in 2019 to determine what role counties are positioned to play in assuring reliable provision of this vital public service.

The EMS Task Force developed a set of recommendations, related policy considerations and identified opportunities for counties to contribute to solutions, including retention and recruitment, reimbursement rates, funding, coverage, service models, risk reduction, EMS Act and regulations, technology support and training requirements.

The EMS Task Force will continue its work through 2021 with a focus on developing and implementing policy related to the recommendations presented in its November 2019 report. Legislatively, CCAP members seek statutory changes that would allow counties and municipalities to work together on regional service delivery and sustainable funding solutions to assist with this crisis in the coming year. The EMS Task Force is also committed to developing a toolbox that can assist each county in bringing together local stakeholders to review coverage needs, potentially including surveys, planning ideas, educational tools and data sources.

COUNTIES SUPPORT:

- Statutory authorization for county or multi-municipal authorities that would be capable of county-wide or regional EMS service delivery, including paid staffing, optimization of service deployment and service areas, and dedicated funding sources.
- Collaboration among state and federal agencies, the legislature and stakeholders to provide technology tools to municipalities, counties and EMS providers that enable them to better assess current strengths and vulnerabilities, improve dispatch efficiencies, and plan for current and future needs.
- Addressing system funding needs that support the variety of service models in operation in the commonwealth and provide sufficient resources to address community needs.

For more information on the **solutions to the emergency medical services crisis**, contact **Ashley Lenker White** at (717) 736-4755 or awhite@pacounties.org.



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