

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: July 22, 2025

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Bob Grabowski, Fire Chief

Topic: Intergovernmental Agreement – Ground Emergency Medical Transport Program

PURPOSE

The Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Program is a federally funded Medicaid program that has been in existence for years, but was introduced to Illinois via legislation in 2019. The program allows municipalities an opportunity to collect an additional Medicaid reimbursement amount for ambulance services, above and beyond what the State reimburses for Medicaid claims for emergency transportation. The State of Illinois oversees the GEMT program, which the Village has participated in since September 2022. In order to participate in the GEMT program, the Village must enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) for reimbursement of unrecovered costs of ambulance transports through Medicaid. This intergovernmental agreement requires Board approval.

PROCESS

Medicaid payment rates for ambulance transport services are often 70% less than the actual cost of providing those services. An average Medicaid payment is \$120 per ambulatory transport; the true cost to provide the service is many times this amount. Currently, the State reimburses municipalities a miniscule fixed 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. When the State receives the funds from the federal government, they will forward the difference to the Village, then bill us for 50% of what is collected. The Village will keep the remaining 50%. The attached IGA and application will be submitted to the Illinois Department of Public Health by October 1, 2025, if approved by the Village Board.

OUTCOME

Staff anticipates that the net revenue in the current fiscal year will be approximately \$400,000, after the 50% share due back to the State of Illinois has been deducted.

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FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** N/A
- **Budgeted Amount:** N/A
- **Cost:** N/A

LEGAL REVIEW

Completed

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Authorize the Village President to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Illinois Department of Health Care and Family Services for reimbursement of unrecovered costs of ambulance transports through Medicaid.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Intergovernmental Agreement