

**To: Mayor and City Council**

**From: Melissa Marsh, City Manager**

**Date: January 10, 2024**

**RE: Resolution – Michigan's Participation in Ground Emergency Management Funding**

The Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) oversees a Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program. GEMT provides funding and support to eligible healthcare providers through state agencies to ensure that individuals without reliable transport can access emergency medical care. This program improves access to medical services for Medicare recipients.

Michigan doesn't currently participate in this program, although we are the nation's 8th highest number of Medicaid enrollees. This means that local agencies, like the City of Madison Heights, aren't fully reimbursed by Medicaid to cover the cost of medical transport for this significant segment of our community (approximately 13%). Since last February, we have been working with the City of Sterling Heights, the Michigan Municipal League, and the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs to move legislation forward to require the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to implement this program for our state.

Only communities that provide medical transport would be eligible for reimbursement. For Madison Heights, our 2021 estimate was 13% or \$400,000. The numbers have only increased since this. This is significant funding that Madison Heights and most other communities in the state can desperately use. Therefore, we are asking the City Council to approve a resolution urging the State Legislature to adopt legislation directing the MDHHS to enroll in the GEMT program.

In addition to this resolution, Madison Heights with Sterling Heights has taken the lead in educating other communities on this program, advocating our representative to create and support bills to implement, as well as requesting possible executive action that would force MDHHA to implement this plan sooner.