

Mⁱ-GEMT

Implementing the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Program (GEMT) in Michigan



Ambulance services provide thousands of medical transportation trips for 2.8 MILLION MEDICAID ENROLLEES in Michigan that DO NOT receive the full reimbursement available from the federal government.

WE AIM TO CHANGE THIS.

The United States Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) oversees the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program. GEMT provides funding and support to eligible healthcare providers through state agencies, aiming to ensure that individuals without reliable transportation can access emergency medical care. This program improves access to emergency services for Medicaid beneficiaries, bridging the gap between patients and healthcare facilities and facilitating timely care during emergencies.

While Michigan doesn't currently participate in the program, our state has the 8th highest number of Medicaid Enrollees in the nation. Local emergency services and ambulance providers are not fully reimbursed by Medicaid to cover the costs of medical transportation for this significant segment of our communities. The GEMT initiative in Michigan seeks to address health disparities, promote health equity, and reimburse local agencies and emergency services providers for serving vulnerable populations.

Supporters



MICHIGAN
TOWNSHIPS
ASSOCIATION



CITY OF
Sterling Heights
InnovatingLiving

Quick Facts

Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Program



Voluntary Program

GEMT is a voluntary program available to emergency medical transportation providers operated by or for any governmental entity. Local governing bodies have the option to choose whether or not they participate in the program. Each community can evaluate the expected benefits received with provider capacity and costs of program participation.



Stable Source of Federal Funding

GEMT programs are entitlement programs are part of the federal Medicaid System. They operate as part of the Social Security Act Title XIX and have been in use since 1965. There are no current plans to repeal or withdraw funds from providing this benefit.



Enhances Quality of Care

Providing reliable and timely transportation to medical facilities during emergencies improves service delivery and care for Medicaid recipients. This program ultimately bridges gaps in transportation services, enabling Medicaid recipients to receive essential medical treatment without delays or obstacles.



Improves Workforce Retention and Attraction

Emergency service providers were one of the most impacted workforce segments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Providing stable reimbursement mechanisms reduces financial uncertainties for emergency providers and allows them to develop a stable, motivated, and high-quality emergency medical workforce.



Millions of Dollars for Michigan Providers

Participation in the GEMT program offers significant financial benefits to local communities by injecting much-needed funding to offset the costs of emergency medical transportation services. This additional revenue can be vital for community health infrastructure, enhancing the overall quality of healthcare services, and reducing financial burden on local taxpayers.

Benefits

Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Program

IMPROVES ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CARE

Providing care to Medicaid beneficiaries places a financial burden on communities, making it more difficult.

IMPROVES QUALITY OF CARE

Bridge the gap between patients and healthcare facilities, GEMT ensures timely access to essential care during emergencies.

IMPROVES RECRUITING

Emergency medical response has experienced a recruiting crisis in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Increasing reimbursement to providers will help improve wages to attract more workers into the sector.

IMPROVES ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

By bolstering the financial health of EMS agencies, the program supports job creation, stimulates local economies, and contributes to the overall well-being and safety of residents.

IMPROVES CARE OUTCOMES

Aims to reduce health disparities and enhance healthcare outcomes for vulnerable populations in Michigan who face challenges related to transportation, ultimately promoting health equity.

