Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission  
EMS Improvement Grant Program

Description:

In the 2008 legislative session, Governor Perdue and the General Assembly placed 58.9 million dollars into the FY08 supplemental budget to improve the trauma care system in Georgia. This funding was provided to the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission. The Commission was charged to allocate the funds fairly and effectively and to oversee the dispersal of the funds into the entire Georgia trauma system. For the first year, the overarching goal for Fund distribution has been to stabilize and strengthen the existing system’s infrastructure. These funds are being dispersed to support the designated trauma centers, trauma physicians and EMS systems.

In general the Georgia Trauma Fund dollars are being spent for two broad categories; first funding is provided for uncompensated care and second funding is being provided for “readiness costs”. It should be noted that the legislature gave the Commission two years to develop a long term spending plan for any dollars allocated for future years. While the Commission hopes funding will be forthcoming for future years there is no guarantee of this. It is also important to note that these monies were placed into the supplemental budget, which required the Commission to develop and implement the funding process by the end of June 2008. This short time frame will not allow an exhaustive study of the EMS trauma needs and may be adjusted in future years. This grant program is designed to assist local emergency ambulance services replace old and out-dated ambulances.

Definitions:

Agency: Any entity currently licensed to Provide Ambulance service in the State of Georgia, be it Public or Private, Governmental or otherwise

911 Zone Provider: Any Ambulance License holder who has been given the responsibility for primary 911 coverage in a specified 911 Zone within Georgia in an approved 911 Zoning Plan as described by DHR.

Replaced Unit: Any ambulance described in a Grant application in this program whose condition, age and mileage serve as the basis for an EMS Equipment Trauma Grant.

Eligibility:

All 911 zoned ambulance providers, licensed in Georgia and holding a 911 zone on June 1, 2008 are eligible to apply for this funding. Vehicles that are eligible for replacement under this plan must be licensed ambulances, serving a 911 zone, and licensed by the State Office of EMS as an emergency ambulance on January 1, 2008.

Replacement vehicles are eligible for this funding if they are purchased between January 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009.
General Provisions

The Georgia Trauma Fund dollars appropriated through the legislative process was designated specifically to improve the trauma system across Georgia; therefore local agencies and governmental units may not use these funds to reduce local funding of the EMS system.

This grant award contract shall be between GEMA, as contractor for The Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission, and the Agency holding the license for 911 Zone coverage for a designated 911 EMS Zone in Georgia, or to a contractor providing the coverage for the agency holding such license.

Funding will be provided to replace ambulances for licensed 911 providers. The amount of funding to replace an ambulance will be based on a 75/25 percent grant with the Commission providing 75% of the cost of eligible vehicles and equipment. There will be a $75,000 cap on the funding for any individual unit. If the agency seeks funding assistance for an EMS unit which costs more than $115,000 then this amount may be reduced. The grant program will not assist in the funding of any EMS unit which costs more than $125,000. This base amount may include the purchase and installation of a new radio and new stretcher for the unit. No other equipment will be considered for purchase.

Any agency selected to receive Georgia Trauma Fund dollars to replace an ambulance will not be required to remove the “replaced” unit from service. However, no request shall be considered for future funding from the Georgia Trauma Fund for the “replaced” unit.

Upon being selected for grant consideration after scoring, and before receiving the grant funds, a contract shall be executed between the qualifying agency and GEMA agreeing to the following:

The receiving Agency shall:

Provide an affidavit, and upon request from Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission, produce evidence that the EMS service receiving Georgia Trauma Fund dollars, bills for services in a manner consistent with CMS regulations and at a level at least equivalent to the Medicare fee schedule rates for all Ambulance services for the specific service rendered as of June 30, 2008, and in a manner to maximize patient service revenue.

Agree to utilize this equipment within the 911 zone described in the application for the grant.

Agree that any disposition or transfer of this vehicle from primary responsibility within the Zone described in the application shall only be with approval of the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission.

Agree that if the purchased equipment is sold within the first 5 years all monies received from this sale will be reinvested in an ambulance used in the 911 EMS zone described in the application for the grant.
Agree that these grant monies from the Georgia Trauma Fund will not be used to supplant, decrease or reallocate the existing budgeted monies to the local 911 system.

Agree to insure the unit for appropriate replacement/repair costs and agree to use funds recovered from any insurance settlement to either replace or repair the unit. If the local agencies feel the unit, due to age, mileage, or general condition should not be repaired or replaced, within five years of purchase using Georgia Trauma Fund dollars, then they will advise the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission.

The applications must be in the office of GEMA by close of business February 27, 2009.

When completed, the application and cover letter should be sent to:

Shauna Hall  
Georgia Office of Homeland Security – GEMA  
P.O. Box 18055  
Atlanta, Georgia  30316  

If sending via UPS or Fed-X  

Shauna Hall  
Georgia Office of Homeland Security – GEMA  
935 E. Confederate Ave., SE  
Building 5  
Atlanta, Georgia  30316  

It is suggested the letter be sent with a request for a verification of receipt.