



March 17, 2020

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association
General Membership

Dear IFCA Members:

As we continue to move closer in accomplishing the supplemental funding through the Federal Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Program, I have been informed by the State of Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services that we now must complete and sign a new Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that will replace and rescind the previous IGA that governmental entities completed and signed in 2019.

The reason for this is because changes have been made between the State and the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) to review a new State Plan Amendment (SPA) that is being prepared along with this IGA.

I am asking that this new IGA be completed, signed and returned to my designee no later than Monday March 30th, 2020. As we move ahead with this very important initiative, I must remind all you how critical and imperative this program's full approval is for the entire State of Illinois. This funding will exceed two hundred million dollars annually for governmental entities throughout the state, large and small, rural and urban, volunteer through fully paid and career departments who provide emergency medical transport services to all types of Medicaid recipients.

Now, I strongly urge you to mobilize your local government officials, and other contacts to communicate your strong views of support for this action and urge your local and state elected and appointed officials to petition the Federal and State entities to act on this as quickly as possible especially considering what we are currently experiencing with the COVID-19 pandemic. It is imperative that this funding be fully approved for all of us to continue to serve the Medicaid community and the needs associated with that population base related to ground emergency medical transportation services through a public entity.

Thank you all for your continued patience, support and assistance in this very important program and effort that will impact virtually every aspect of the Medicaid services we currently provide and the future of these services.

Thank you,

Mark J. Puknaitis
Fire Chief

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Immediate Past President Illinois Fire Chiefs' Association