

**Kentucky Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)
Education & Training Modernization Funding Guidance for EMS
Agencies**

May 2026



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Overview of Funding Opportunities for EMS Agencies

Background and Context

Introduction to the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) is a statewide initiative funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to improve health access, quality, and outcomes for rural Kentuckians. With a focus on addressing long-standing gaps in rural healthcare, this program is designed to deliver modernized care, strengthen workforce capacity, and expand preventative and community-based services. The Commonwealth of Kentucky was awarded \$212.9 million through the CMS Rural Health Transformation Fund, with future funds to be released annually based on performance metrics. Through this funding, subrecipients will be responsible for conducting various initiatives and ensuring long-term sustainability through data interoperability, workforce expansion, and technological infrastructure.

RHTP Funding Support for EMS Agencies

Under Kentucky's RHTP, EMS agencies are primarily supported through the Crisis to Care (CTC) to strengthen pre-hospital and crisis response program capacity through initiative programming alongside routine EMS operations. The CTC initiative focuses on enhancing integrated EMS response and coordination, enabling EMS agencies to better manage patients in the field and coordinate care pathways. Additionally, this effort supports behavioral health crisis responses and aims to develop a link between EMS, crisis stabilization, and recovery services. Recognizing a heavy reliance on 911 and emergency departments as default access points for crisis care in rural regions, these initiatives respond to this issue by repositioning EMS as a front-line connector to care.

EMS in Kentucky

Rural communities often rely on EMS as the main point of access to care. Yet many areas face limited coverage, long response times, and few local health services. Expanded support for EMS can help close these gaps by allowing providers to do more than respond to emergencies. Current EMS and future EMS professionals experience barriers to advancing their education and certification due to availability of programs in rural areas. By supporting community members where they are it provides increased access and opportunities that may otherwise not be available to students in rural communities to grow careers within EMS and provide quality patient care. Expanding EMS education & training builds local capacity, keeps care closer to home, and strengthens the overall health system in rural communities.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible applicants are non-profit and publicly funded agencies or programs that EMS TEI license operating within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. To be considered for funding, applicant agencies must hold an active EMS licensed TEI license and be in good standing at the time of application and throughout the award period. Agencies that do not currently possess a TEI license are ineligible for this round of funding, however, with the creation of a TEI program could apply for additional funding in future years.

Funding Overview

This Request for Applications (RFA) offers multiple funding opportunities designed to support EMS agencies at different stages of program development and service expansion. Eligible agencies may apply for one or more funding opportunities described in this RFA, based on their current capacity, community needs, and proposed use of funds. Moreover, eligible agencies are not required to apply under this RFA and may apply for funding in future years, contingent upon the availability of grant funds. Funding opportunities may be pursued independently or in combination, and agencies are not required to apply for all components:

Pathway #1: Enhance a Hands-On Skills Training Program

Purchase of Equipment for Hands-On Skills Training

This opportunity is intended for agencies or programs with EMS TEI licenses to enhance their current equipment utilized for providing hands-on skills training to individuals going through an EMS certification or for continuing education. An agency must have an active TEI license and be in good standings with KBEMS providing hands-on skills training. Funding supports the purchasing of equipment to increase quality of education & training hands-on skills for future and current EMS professionals in their region.

Pathway #2: Establish or Expand a Mobile Hands-On Skills Training Program

Purchase of a Mobile Training Simulation Unit

This pathway is intended for EMS agencies that currently operate a hands-on skills training program or a mobile skills program and are seeking to expand service capacity by building upon their existing model. Agencies may propose expansions in any manner that aligns with their community needs and operational goals. Under this pathway, agencies may utilize funding for purchasing a mobile training simulation unit that can be transported to rural areas and provide hands-on skills training to students where they are at. Agencies will have flexibility in how they design and implement their expansion.

Funding Structure and Duration

This RFA offers funding through two distinct pathways, each with different expectations for duration, continuation, and sustainability. Funding is structured to support early implementation while allowing programs time to build capacity before transitioning toward longer-term sustainability.

Pathway 1: Enhance a Hands-On Skills Training Program

Agencies or programs enhancing their current hands-on skills training program may apply for one year of initial funding. Year 1 funding is intended to support program enhancement, inclusive of purchasing equipment and supplies necessary to support hands-on skills training such as full body mannequins, cardiac & diagnostic tools and other items. Agencies can also request funding to support limited administrative or planning hours for the hands-on skills program.

Continuation of funding beyond Year 1 is not automatic. Agencies seeking to expand or scale their programs must submit a new application under Pathway 2 (Establish or Expand a Mobile Hands-On Skills Training Program) in a subsequent funding cycle. This structure recognizes that

programs require time to demonstrate readiness for expansion to a mobile skills training program and are not expected to be fully sustainable after a single year of operation.

- Grant Year 1 will be funded at 100%
- Grant Year 2 requires a new application under Pathway 2*

*This is only required for agencies who received funding in Year 1, new TEI agencies or agencies that did not receive Year 1 funding are eligible to apply for pathway 1

Pathway 2: Establish or Expand a Mobile Hands-On Skills Training Program

Agencies or programs with an existing TEI hands-on skills training program, including those that previously received funding under Pathway 1, may apply for funding to expand services, workforce capacity, or scope of operations.

Under Pathway 2, agencies may opt in to a second year of funding, subject to meeting defined program requirements and performance benchmarks. Funding for Year 2 is intended to continue supporting program operations and expansion while agencies work toward longer-term sustainability.

To receive Year 2 funding, agencies must:

- Formally opt in to continued funding
- Demonstrate progress toward required implementation and performance metrics
- Remain compliant with program requirements, including training and reporting expectations

For agencies approved for Year 2 funding, eligible costs may continue to be supported at 100 percent during this period. Future funding beyond this point is anticipated to transition toward a phased cost-share model, contingent on funding availability and program performance.

- Grant Year 1 will be funded at 100%
- Grant Year 2 requires agencies to opt-in to an additional year of funding with 100% funding provided if grant requirements are met
- Grant Year 3+ is subject to phased cost-sharing and funding availability*

*Additional grant funding may be available beyond the 5-year RHT base period of performance depending on funding allocations made by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

What Support Will Be Offered from Rural Health Transformation (RHT)?

- **Application Technical Assistance:** Participating agencies will have access to structured opportunities for technical assistance to support their application development and compliance requirements, which may include:
 - **Information Session:** An informational webinar will be hosted to provide an overview of community paramedicine programming, including eligibility, funding structure, and application expectations for this RFA.
 - **RFA Office Hours:** Two optional technical assistance sessions for applicants to ask questions and receive application support.

- **Learning Collaborations:** Collaborations will provide structured opportunities for prospective applicants to engage in shared learning and peer exchange on program developments.
- **Inquiry Submission Form:** A dedicated mailbox will be available for applicants to submit written questions throughout the RFA period and submitted inquiries will receive responses within a five-business day timeframe.
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):** To provide transparency and equal access to information, responses to frequently asked questions will be compiled and shared with all applicants. This document will be updated on the RHT website with the application materials.
- **Financial Support (Grant Funding):** RHT will provide grant funding to support allowable costs associated with establishing or expanding TEI hands-on skills training programs, including estimated expenses listed above. While a template cost submission (Attachment B) with suggested line items is provided, agencies may propose additional or revised line items as appropriate.
- **Data & Reporting:** To support accountability and long-sustainability for programming, RHT will provide agencies with guidance on expectations for reporting performance metrics, program impact, and outcomes.

Collectively, these supports are intended to ensure that participating EMS agencies are not only funded to launch or expand TEI hands-on skills training programs, but are also equipped with the guidance, training, and infrastructure needed for long-term success.

(1) Enhance a Hands-On Skills Training Program

What Services Are Covered?

This pathway supports agencies or programs that currently have and wish to expand their existing TEI hands-on skills training program to provide EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic and Continuing education classes.

What is Being Funded?

Funding support can be provided to purchase advanced equipment to support the hands-on skills training program. Funds can also be utilized to advance a TEI certification, for example: if your agency is currently TEI-3 certified site, funds could be utilized to advance your agencies certification to a TEI-4 certified site.

Enhance a Hands-On Skills Training Program

Items purchased or rented under funding can be, but are not limited to:

- Manikins (adult, child, baby)
- ECG Simulators
- Trauma Kits
- CPR Mask Kits
- AED Trainers (adult, child, baby or universal)
- Airway Management Trainer (adult, child, baby)
- Basic Supplies (gloves, bandages, gauze, etc)

What Does Implementation Look Like?

Enhance a Hands-On Skills Training Unit

Agencies looking to expand their current TEI offerings by advancing their equipment would need to evaluate their current program, equipment supply, and regional training needs. This would include determination of the type of training that will be provided by the unit and the equipment necessary to support the program. The agency would need to develop a plan to meet regional training needs and expand their program offering to be inclusive of students outside of the general service jurisdiction.

Agency Expectations

The reporting metrics outlined below will be used by the Commonwealth to assess whether grant funding is supporting progress toward the Objectives and Key Results (OKRs) included in the Commonwealth's CMS application.

Reporting & Tracking

Documentation

- Finalized equipment evaluation and needs determination (including equipment needed to update and new purchases)
- Agency or program plan to meet regional training needs and open programming outside of their jurisdiction

This project is 100% funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for a total of \$212.9 million in budget year 1 with 100% by CMS/HHS.

- KBEMS certification to provide hands-on skills training and TEI certification

Data & Utilization Metrics

- Fees and expenses charged to students for participation in hands-on skills training
- Amount of equipment purchased through the RFA (manikins, trauma kits, CPR materials, airway trainers etc)
- Number of students enrolled as program expands to meet regional needs
 - Students trained and what they are trained in (EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, CE)
- Number of training courses provided through the EMS-TEI program
- Number of EMS educators on staff
 - Provided by their individual TEI certification status

(2) Establish or Expand a Mobile Hands-On Skills Training Program

What Services Are Covered?

This pathway supports the establishment or expansion of a mobile hands-on skills training program that will be utilized to provide education to areas of high need.

What is Being Funded?

Funding support can be provided to purchase advanced equipment to support the mobile hands-on skills training program, or to partner with existing mobile training providers to host on-site regional skills training. Funding can be utilized to provide limited administrative support / program planning for the mobile unit, however, cannot be utilized to cover full salaries or activities. Costs directly associated with the maintenance and operation of the mobile training unit can also be funded by the grant.

Establish or Expand a Mobile Hands-On Skills Training Program
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Items purchased under funding can be, but are not limited to:

- Mobile Training Unit (van)
- Manikins (adult, child, baby)
- ECG Simulators
- Trauma Kits
- CPR Mask Kits
- AED Trainers (adult, child, baby or universal)
- Airway Management Trainer (adult, child, baby)
- Basic Supplies (gloves, bandages, gauze, etc)

Activities under the administrative support and planning role can be, but are not limited to:

- Site coordination for hosting the mobile unit
- Establishing partnerships
- Program promotion
- Transport of mobile unit to host sites

What Does Implementation Look Like?

Establish a Mobile Training Unit

Agencies looking to expand their current TEI offerings to include a mobile training unit would need to evaluate their current program and develop a plan for implementation of a mobile training unit or incorporation of hosting an existing mobile training program. This would include determination of the type of training that will be provided by the unit and the equipment necessary to support the program. The agency would need to develop a plan and coordinate with other agencies and programs to send their mobile training unit or partner with an existing mobile training unit to rural and underserved areas to provide the education and training.

Expand a Mobile Training Unit

For agencies or programs that currently hold a mobile training unit and are looking to expand their reach and programming would need to evaluate their current offerings and equipment needs for their desired expansion. The programs would need to develop a plan and coordinate with other agencies and programs to provide their mobile training units to rural and underserved areas of need to provide education & training.

Agency Expectations

The reporting metrics outlined below will be used by the Commonwealth to assess whether grant funding is supporting progress toward the Objectives and Key Results (OKRs) included in the Commonwealth's CMS application. Agencies are expected to continue serving the rural regions included in this application post the initial award period.

Reporting & Tracking

- Finalized equipment evaluation and needs determination (including equipment needed to update and new purchases)
- Agency or program plan to meet regional training needs and provide their mobile training units to rural underserved areas
- KBEMS certification to provide hands-on skills training and TEI certification
- Geographic report of areas reached through the mobile training units based off the Area Development Districts (ADDs)

Documentation

Data & Utilization Metrics*

- Amount of equipment purchased through the RFA (mobile training unit, manikins, trauma kits, CPR materials, airway trainers etc)
- Number of students reached through provision of mobile training unit to rural underserved areas
 - Students trained and what they are trained in (EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, CE)
- Number of training courses provided by mobile training unit to rural underserved areas
- Number of EMS educators on staff
 - Provided by their individual TEI certification status

*The data and utilization metrics listed above represent minimum reporting expectations for Pathway #2 awardees. Agencies may propose additional data elements or performance metrics that they believe are relevant to their proposed program expansion.

Submission Instructions

Submit materials in *PDF format* by no later than **5 PM on Friday, June 12th** to Workforce Development Specialist for Crisis to Care (CTC), Jimmie Hampton <jimmie.hampton@ky.gov>.

Application form not to exceed twenty-five (25) pages, excluding any attachments and supporting documents.

If any immediate questions emerge, reach out to the Workforce Development Specialist for Crisis to Care, Jimmie Hampton, via email <jimmie.hampton@ky.gov>.

Guidance on Questions

- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):** An FAQ document will be made available to address common questions related to agency availability, application requirements, and program expectations. The FAQ will be updated with high yield questions and posted alongside RFA materials.
- **Office Hours:** Biweekly office hours will be hosted during the application period to provide applicants with an opportunity to ask questions and receive clarification on the RFA and submission requirements.
- **Direct Support:** Should applicants have direct questions regarding this RFA, they should reach out to the Workforce Development Specialist for Crisis to Care, Jimmie Hampton, via email <jimmie.hampton@ky.gov>.

Appendix

Appendix A – Application Submission Documents

Application Template

Please reference Attachment A in the RFA package and fill out the application form for funding to ensure standardized submissions.

Budget Template

Please reference Attachment B in the RFA package and fill out the application budget template for funding to ensure standardized submissions.

Appendix B – Details on TEI Certification Requirements

How to become a TEI (Initial)

Step 1: Email Initial Application for Training and Educational Institution ([KBEMS-E14 TEI Application-2023.pdf](#)) to bob.andrew@ky.gov.

Step 2: After the application is received, the new TEI account will be added to [KEMSIS](#) and the TEI Administrator will be notified by email to make the \$500.00 payment through the TEI KEMSIS account.

Step 3: After payment has been received, the TEI Administrator will upload the required policies found in the TEI worksheet located on the [KBEMS Forms Page](#).

Step 4: The TEI Administrator will notify bob.andrew@ky.gov once the policies are uploaded to the TEI account. A desk review will be conducted and if all policies are approved a remote site visit will be scheduled to verify the equipment required in the E-12 form located on the [KBEMS Forms Page](#).

Step 5: Once the TEI passes the equipment inspection, the TEI will be issued a certificate to operate in accordance with 202 KAR 7:601 for the level certified.

How to maintain or upgrade TEI

- (1) An EMS-TEI applying for initial or certification **upgrade** shall undergo an inspection prior to offering classes. The type of inspection, on-site or virtual, shall be determined by the office of the board and the EMS-TEI shall be responsible for establishing the virtual connection at their facility if necessary.
- (2) Each inspection shall ensure that the EMS-TEI has met all applicable requirements of this administrative regulation. If the board's inspection finds that the EMS-TEI has failed to meet a requirement, the EMS-TEI shall correct all deficiencies prior to offering a class and receiving subsequent certification as an EMS-TEI.
- (3) The board may conduct inspections of EMS-TEIs for initial, renewal, certification upgrade, or to monitor compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements for TEIs. Inspections may be scheduled or unscheduled.
- (4) The office of the board shall conduct an application review of required documentation and inspection of the EMS-TEI applicant no later than sixty (60) days following the submission of the Training and Educational Institution (TEI) Application by the EMS-TEI applicant for initial certification and upgrades.
- (5) Approval of notice of intent to upgrade shall not extend the two (2) year EMS-TEI certification period.

TEI accreditation for Paramedic Courses

In order for students of a Kentucky-certified TEI to be allowed to obtain certification as an EMT-Paramedic by the [National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians](#), your TEI must be certified as an EMS-TEI 4, which includes the ability to teach EMR, EMT, AEMT, and EMT-P courses, **and** you must also be either accredited or actively seeking accreditation (Letter of Review- LOR) through the [Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs](#)

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(CAAHEP) in cooperation with the [Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for Emergency Medical Services Professions \(CoAEMSP\)](#)

Please reference any questions you have regarding EMS Program accreditation to CoAEMSP at 214-703-8445.

For further information regarding being TEI-certified site or educator in the Commonwealth you can review 202 KAR 7:601. Training, education, and continuing education through <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/downloads/docs/13760/document.engrossed.pdf>

Appendix C – Example Equipment Requirements

TEI-Level 3 Equipment

Please reference the link [here](#) to understand the required equipment needs for TEI-3 sites.

TEI-Level 4 Equipment

Please reference the link [here](#) to understand the required equipment needs for TEI-4 sites.