

Respond To:

523 Dell Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823

713 Bridge St., Suite 18
Selinsgrove, PA 17870



Phone: (814) 355-1474
Fax: (814) 355-5149
Web: www.smemsc.org

TO: Regional Agencies, Providers, Provider Candidates
FROM: Board of Directors, SMEMSC
DATE: 10/19/23

SUBJECT: EMS Training, Tuition Assistance Program

History: Act 93 of 2020 directs the Department of Health to allocate 30% of the EMSOF allocation to provide training to underserved rural areas of the Commonwealth. The primary objectives of this program shall be to improve access to current education activities, create more education opportunities, and provide those opportunities at a lower cost to students and providers. Unless otherwise noted, funding from the Rural Education Fund can only be utilized for approved expenditures from the list in instances where the educational activity occurs in a county or school district designated as rural by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. Additionally, Services being provided to an individual who resides in a county or school district designated as rural by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania can be covered with funding from the Rural Education Fund irrespective of the location of the activity.

This program will be known as the Tuition Assistance Program

To assist with the cost of initial certification, the council will offer the following tuition assistance to eligible students who are enrolled in a certification program. All eligible programs will be registered through & approved by the Bureau of EMS. Assistance should be requested prior to course registration. Retroactive or 'end of class' assistance will be on a very limited basis.

Tuition assistance will be limited to 85% of the tuition, to a maximum amount listed below:

Maximum Tuition Assistance per Certification Class:

EMR: \$ 450.00
EMT: \$ 700.00
AEMT: \$ 950.00
Paramedic: \$1,500.00

In addition to the previously mentioned amount, the tuition assistance program will cover the cost of the primary textbook or ebook – purchase or rental.

Seven Mountains EMS Council will make payment of tuition assistance directly to the Education Institution or sponsoring EMS agency. Other funding sources (except sponsoring EMS agency & self) shall be disclosed on the application.

Any student that requests Tuition Assistance will be required to fulfill the following obligations:

- Be 16 years of age.
 - Reside in or be affiliated with an EMS agency within the Seven Mountains region.
 - Register for and complete¹ the certification class identified in the application.
 - Attempt the practical & cognitive certification exams
- AND
- Be a member/employee in good standing with an EMS Agency within the counties included in Seven Mountains EMS Council.
- or-
- Obtain an offer of intent to become a member/employee of an EMS Agency within the counties included in the Seven Mountains EMS Council.

NOTES:

For the purpose of this program, ‘Tuition’ is defined as the cost of instruction. Additional fees (registration, lab, technology, etc.) and requirements (immunizations, background checks, uniforms, etc.) may be program costs but they are not tuition costs. Tuition cost will be determined after review of the course announcement as well as the information provided within the EMS registry.

Funding for the primary text is for print **or** digital version (unless one is provided with purchase of the other). Texts can be obtained through 1) the training institute or 2) Council. If obtained through Council, registration is suggested a minimum of 7 days prior to the start of the program to assure text availability the evening of registration; if obtained through the institute, Council will reimburse the institute the wholesale cost of the text – institutes are discouraged from balance billing students for the text markup.

For blended courses: ‘For a fee’ access to digital, pre-recorded lecture/educational sessions is only available for courses identified as using the blended instructional method – please reach out to Council’s certification specialist with any questions.

FISDAP (or similar), EMS testing, tracking, and reporting platform is fully fundable within courses/programs that incorporate the technology within their core curriculum; it's use as an 'optional/supplemental' study tool has yet to be determined and therefore it is not eligible for reimbursement.

If the student does not meet the obligation, the student is responsible for the repayment of 100% of the tuition assistance to Seven Mountains EMS Council.

This program is dependent on the availability of funding and may be modified or discontinued at any time. If the application is available on Council's Homepage, funds are available.

¹Course completion is defined as being marked as 'successfully completing' the course on the class roster or being removed from the class for academic reasons (not to include attendance or behavioral issues).

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Tuition Assistance Form

Student's Name: _____ Contact Email: _____

Certification Level: _____ Class Number: _____

Class Location: _____ Start Date: _____

Text Assistance: Yes No – if Yes: Council obtained Institute obtained

Is the FISDAP (or similar) test preparation platform integrated into the class: Yes No

Other Funding Sources being used:	SOURCE	AMOUNT
	1) _____	_____
	2) _____	_____

I _____, understand if I fail to meet the obligations listed in the Tuition Assistance Program as offered by Seven Mountains EMS Council, I am responsible to reimburse Seven Mountains EMS Council the amount of tuition assistance that was funded on my behalf to the Education Institute. My signature below attests that I have read the program overview and understand the obligation that I am required to meet.

Signature _____ Date: _____
Student Signature (Parent or Guardian if Under 18)

EMS Agency Agency: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

I _____, attest that the above-listed student is a member in good standing with our agency or we intent to allow him/her to join/provide care for our agency on completion of the program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE NOTE:

- An original 'agency representative' signature is required. Needs to be organizational (President, Secretary) or operational (Chief, Captain) leadership.
- A copy of the course announcement, including a cost breakdown, MUST be included.
- Application is to be submitted by the student requesting assistance – not the Educational Institute.

Incomplete applications will be returned to the requestee without consideration until submitted complete.

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA'S EMS COUNCIL