

EMS Community Benefit & Financial Distress Pilot Project for Rural Ambulance Services

The Community Benefit and Financial Distress Tool is an important resource for rural ambulance agencies

- Ambulance agencies do not currently have a standardized way to report their benefit to their communities
- This tool was designed and patterned after a similar tool used by rural hospitals. The same categories of benefits and the way they are calculated are used in this tool. The main difference is the sub-categories are listed according to what ambulance agencies do which is different from the activities hospitals do
- This tool assigns a dollar value to the ambulance community benefit activities and includes those that ambulance agencies are not fully compensated for. This project provides expertise from a subject matter expert to help the ambulance service understand the impact.
- The tool provides a way for ambulance agencies to understand their potential for financial distress.
- The results can be shared with potential funders, policymakers, and their community about the value that their ambulance service provides.

About the Project to Pilot the Tool

Hear about the project! View this brief 5-minute [video to explain the tool and the project](#)

Our ask of you:

- Complete the tool and realize how much, in dollars, you contribute to your community!
- Learn how to communicate the value and story of your ambulance service, and why it is beneficial to do so. You will have a session tailored to your agency and your results with a subject matter expert
- To complete the tool, you will need to have access to the agency's financial information such as budgeting data and billing information and data related to non-billable activities.

To participate or ask questions, please contact:

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What it is

The Rural Ambulance Community Benefit & Financial Distress tool is an Excel spreadsheet. The agency fills in information about the agency and its finances. The agency adds additional information about services it provides to the community for free or at a reduced rate.

Who should participate

Any ambulance service that self-describes itself as serving a rural area. It can also be used by urban or suburban ambulance services, but technical assistance and a subject matter expert are provided only to rural ambulance services.

Why participate

The ambulance service is essential to every rural community. Many agencies struggle with how to communicate their value to their governing body, elected officials, and actual or potential funders. This tool is designed to give you a standardized way to tell the value part of your agency's story.

The tool calculates the financial benefit the community receives from the ambulance service. When completed, the agency consults with a subject matter expert, free of charge, to review the information submitted and receives suggestions on how to use the information. Since the tool was designed after a tool used by hospitals, the hospital and ambulance community benefits can be combined to tell an even more compelling story about the emergency healthcare system.

How to participate

Contact Nicole Clement at nclement@ruralcenter.org