



# DRIVING FORWARD: INNOVATIVE EMS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES



Andrea Abbas



Scott Helle





# THE EVOLUTION OF THE EMS INDUSTRY

Civil War - organized treat and transport system.

1960- a patchwork of unregulated EMS systems across the US

1964- Regional Medical Programs funding

1966- National Academy of Sciences Report: Accidental Death and Disability

1966- EMS is designated to NHTSA

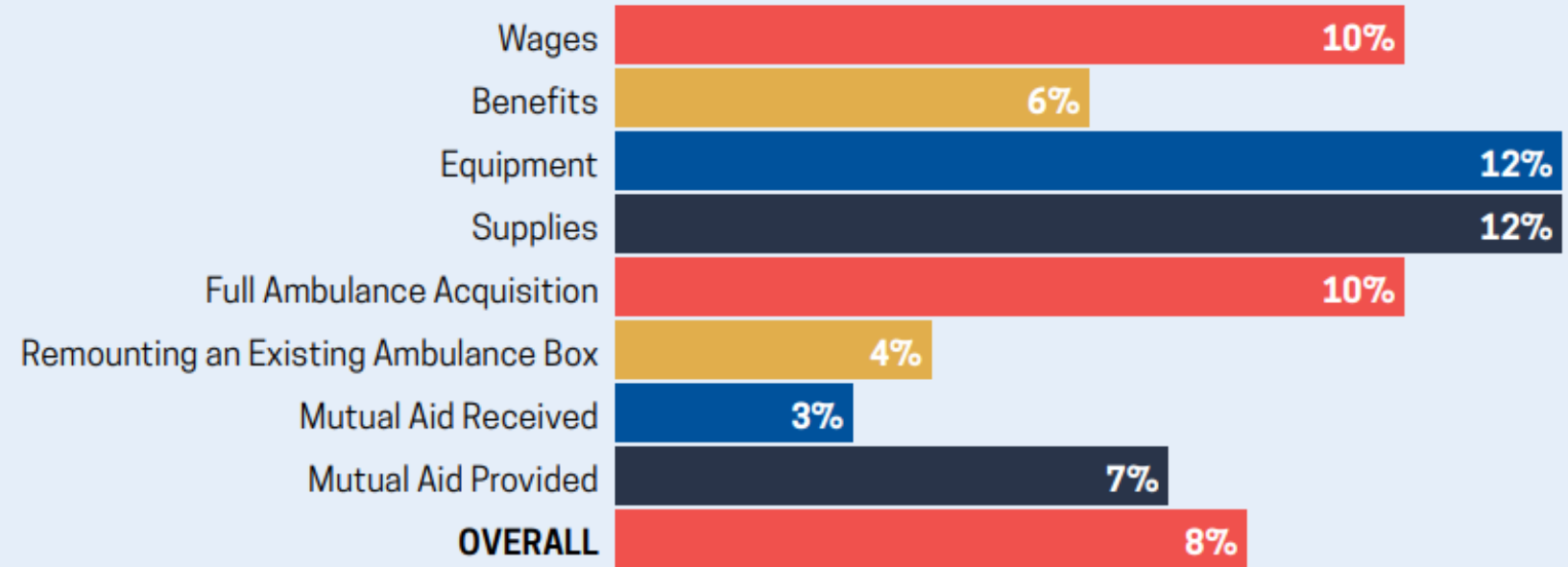


Evolution

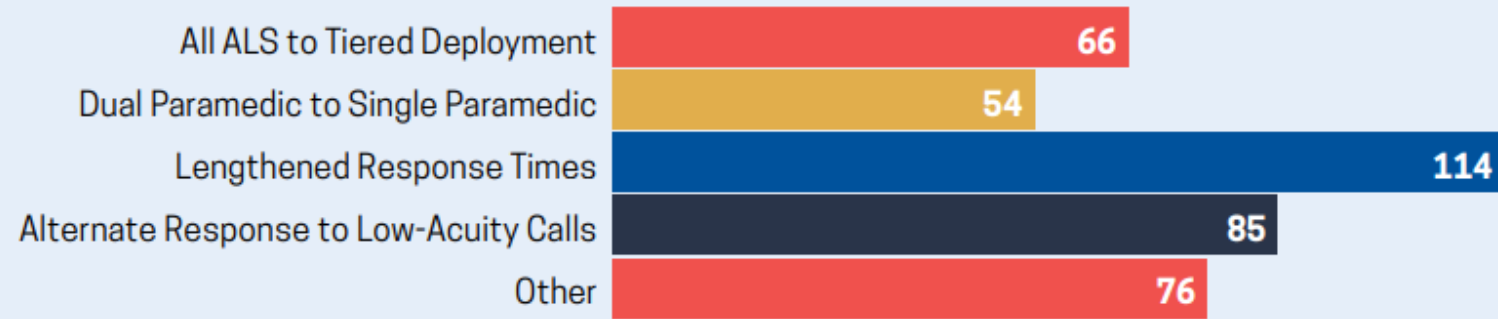


# THE CURRENT STATE OF EMS

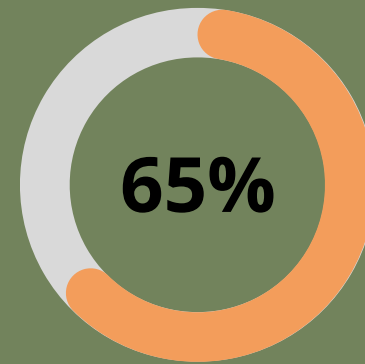
## INCREASE IN COSTS BY CATEGORY 2019-2022



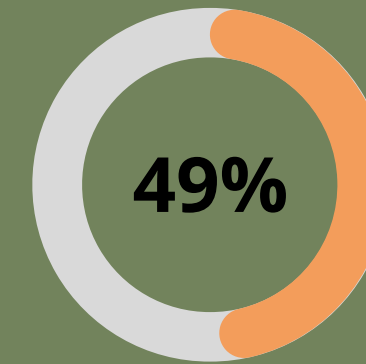
## SYSTEM DELIVERY CHANGES



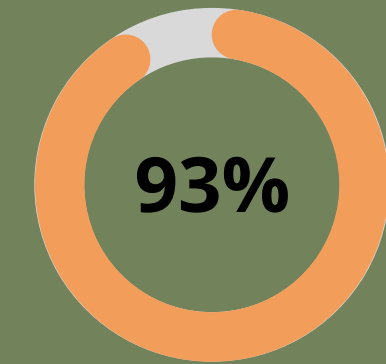
All ALS to Tiered Deployment	66	28.33%
Dual Paramedic to Single Paramedic	54	23.18%
Lengthened Response Times	114	48.93%
Alternate Response to Low-Acuity Calls	85	36.48%
Other	76	32.62%



65% reported a decrease in paramedic applications



49% reported lengthened response times



93% reported increased wage costs

National Association of NAEMT 2023 Survey

**“ Many agencies across the country are on life support. A myriad of challenges are impacting the industry today. Workforce shortages, sunken costs of readiness, supply chain issues and poorly antiquated fee service service revenue streams are just a few of the current issues impacting emergency medical service care delivery in our communities. ”**



# EMS INNOVATION



**The use of lights and sirens**



**Community Paramedicine**



**Tiered Responses**



**Mental and Behavioral Health Collaboratives**



**Telehealth**



**Technology**



# INNOVATION CHALLENGES & BARRIERS

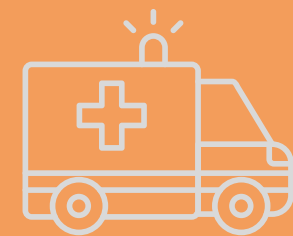
Workforce

Funding

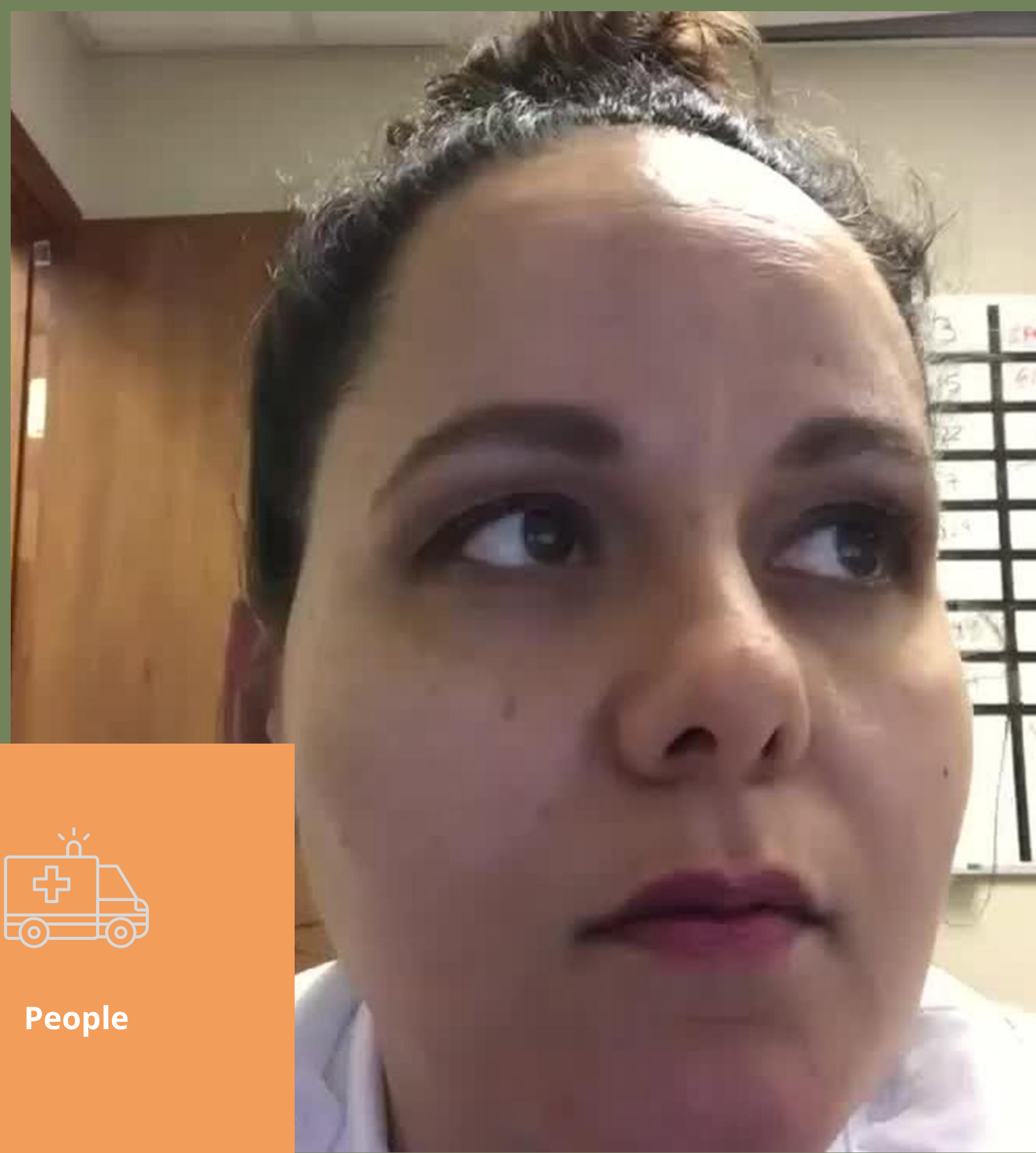
Professional or Trade

Career Path

Data



People





# MCRH EMS PROGRAMMING

## Education, Workshops & Cohorts

EMS CE Webinars

EMS Professional Workshops

- Clinical
- Operational
- Wellness
- Specialty

EMS Leadership Morning Coffee

EMS Leadership Network



# MCRH EMS PROGRAMMING

## Grant Programs

### RURAL PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE TRAINING & NETWORKING GRANT

UP region paramedic initial education

UP region CIP education

UP region CIP care delivery model

### HRSA MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM

Rural EMS Data Reporting Quality Improvement

### MDHHS EMS WORKFORCE

Paramedic initial education funding for rural professionals







# MCRH EMS PROGRAMMING

## Consulting & Technical Assistance

EMS Agency Conversions

Grant Application & Writing Technical Support

Rural EMS Recruitment & Retention

Rural EMS Quality Improvement



# **MCRH EMS PROGRAMMING Collaboratives**



**Joint Committee on Rural Emergency Care**



**Michigan Rural EMS Network Board Secretary**



**Elected Member MDHHS EMS Coordination  
Committee**



**NASEMSO Public Health Emergency Technical  
Expert**



**NOSORH EMS Learning Community**



**Women in EMS Founding Advisor**



# MCRH CONTACT

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48910**



**5 1 7 - 3 5 5 - 7 7 5 7**

A circular graphic on the right side of the slide. It features a bright sun shining through the dark silhouettes of trees, creating a lens flare effect. The background of the circle is a dark, muted green.

**MICHIGAN CENTER**  
**for**  
**RURAL HEALTH**

**THANK YOU**



# Driving Forward: Innovative EMS in Rural Communities

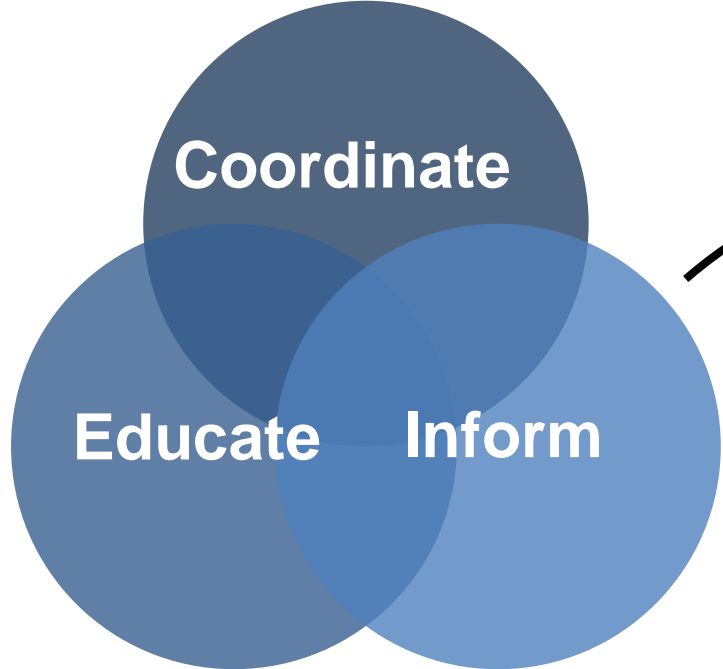


Scott Helle  
BBA, EMT-B  
Rural Project Manager

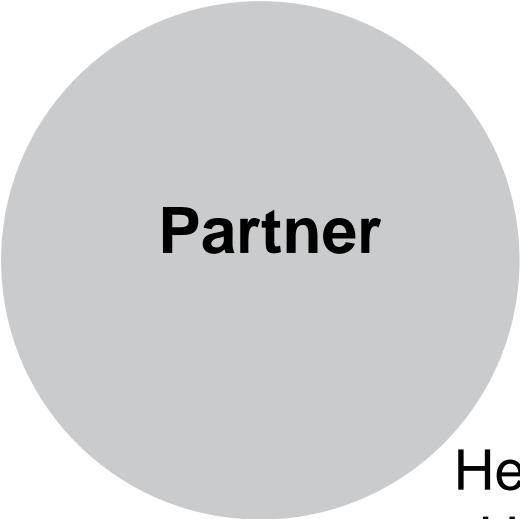
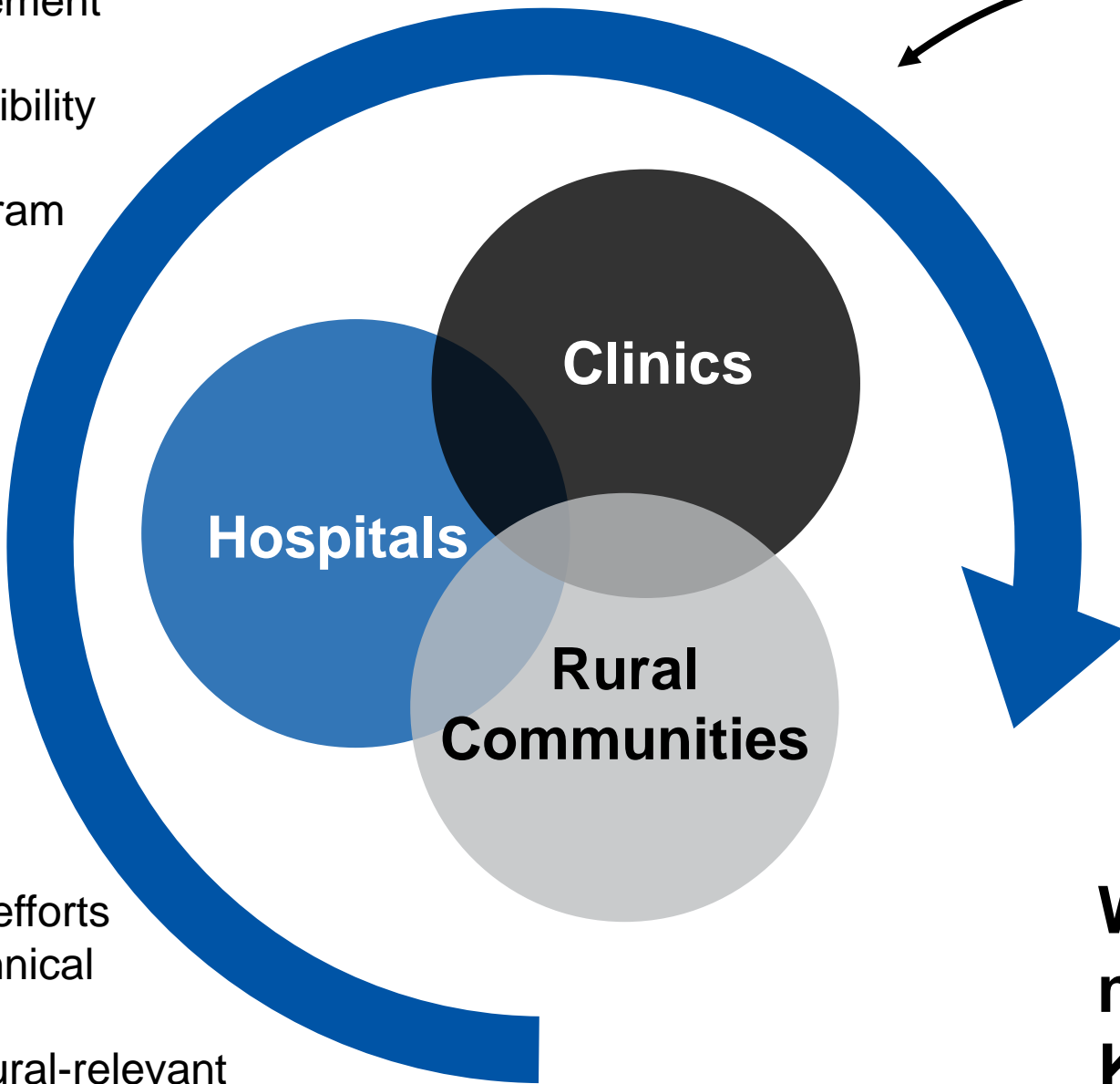
*Flex Program Reverse Site Visit  
Thursday, July 20, 2023*



Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program  
 Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program  
 State Loan Repayment Program  
 State Office of Rural Health



Provide workshops  
 Develop publications  
 Coordinate rural activities  
 Minimize duplicated rural efforts  
 Provide rural-focused technical assistance  
 Collect and disseminate rural-relevant information



EMS  
 Clinics  
 Hospitals  
 Health networks  
 Health-focused organizations



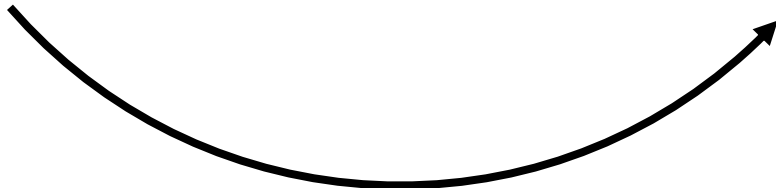
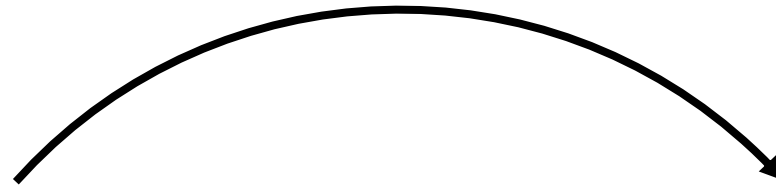
**Working toward long-term goals to meet the health care needs of rural Kentuckians**

KORH-hosted EMS Listening Sessions in early 2020 served as a spark for the establishment of the leadership academy.





Presented by



With support from

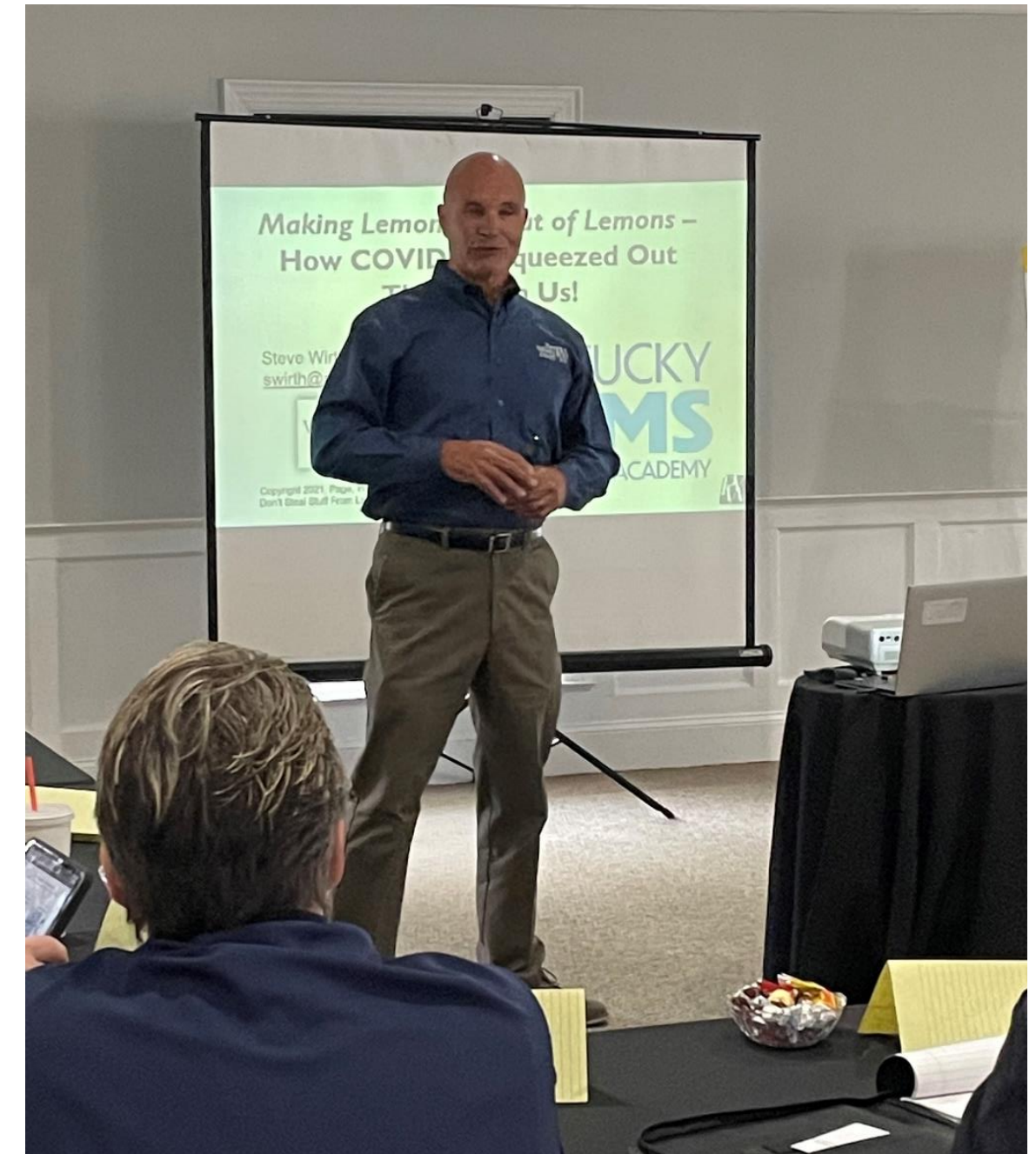




Academy has included sessions on:

- Definition of Leadership
- EMS Law
- Branding and Promoting
- Just Culture
- Mental Health Challenges
- Retention and Recruitment
- Conflict Resolution
- Fundamentals of Budgeting

Sessions led by nationally recognized subject matter experts



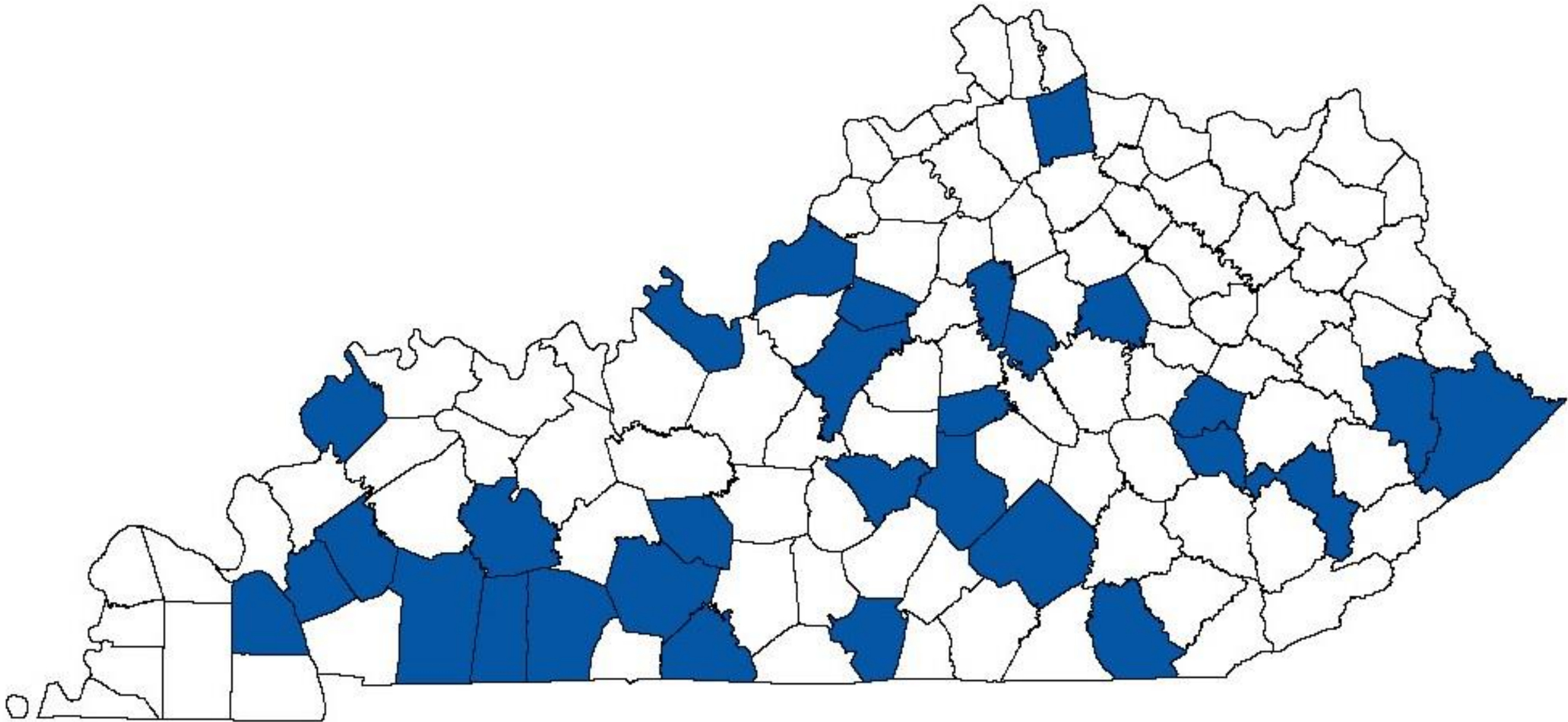
Assigned to a mentor

Placed into small groups to complete a Group Project on a topic that they are passionate about in EMS

And was given an opportunity to work with a Professional Career Coach to help them build the skills they needed to be a successful leader



Each year we average getting 50 applications from mostly newer directors and up and coming leaders from a total of 30 counties.



# Committed to the Heart

In 2019 KORH was awarded the Flex EMS  
Supplement Grant



We implemented CARES Registry statewide through a contract with KBEMS

This also allowed us to have a statewide CARES Coordinator

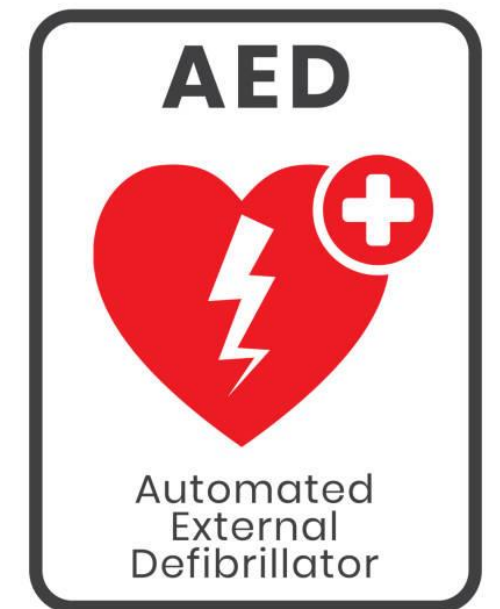
Currently we have 25% of the states population covered by the CARES Registry



CARES

Cardiac Arrest Registry  
to Enhance Survival

We focused on CPR  
and AED education  
across the state



We also was able to help create the  
Kentucky Resuscitation Academy

This resulted in Jessamine County EMS  
becoming a Lighthouse Community under  
the Resuscitation Academy (Seattle)



**KENTUCKY**

