

# Sustainable Rural EMS: Navigating Change

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## An Introduction and Guide

September 2021



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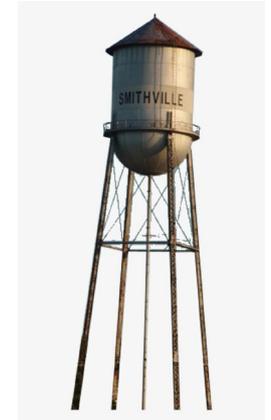
*This project is/was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number UB1RH24206, Information Services to Rural Hospital Flexibility Program Grantees, \$1,009,120 (0% financed with nongovernmental sources). This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.*

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What's the challenge?



# What's the challenge? (continued)



## **On the surface**

- Volunteer / workforce issue
- A volume based funding model
- An unsustainable subsidy

## **Underneath**

- How EMS developed and is delivered, valued and funded

# What's the challenge? (final)



How to move from an unsustainable to sustainable

Working with the rural community

# Navigating Change



- Current model not sustainable
- A sense of urgency
- A committed coalition
- Understanding the full cost
- An exploration of models
- Choosing a model
- Developing funding
- Implementing a model

# Six Steps to Change



- **Step 1.** Form an EMS Working Group
- **Step 2.** Assess current situation
- **Step 3.** Share findings with community.
- **Step 4.** Explore alternative EMS models and choose the best model for your community.
- **Step 5.** Obtain community support for the change process.
- **Step 6.** Implement the change.

# Assessing the current situation

- The Need for Ambulance Services in the Community?
- Organization and Organizational Structure of Existing EMS.
- Are Services Reliable and Sustainable?
- Financials
- Full Cost of Service Today?
- Regional EMS Resources
- Summarize Findings

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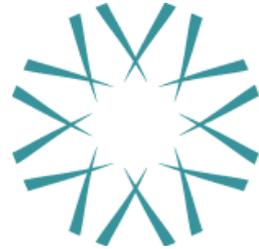
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<https://www.ruralcenter.org/resource-library/sustainable-rural-ems-navigating-change>

# Contact Information



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