



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

www.nj.gov/health

MATTHEW D'ORIA
Acting Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lieutenant Governor

March 1, 2010

Dear EMS Educator:

The Emergency Medical Technician Training Fund (EMTTF) was established in 1992 to reimburse EMS volunteer ambulance, first aid and rescue personnel for costs associated with training and testing for those who are seeking certification and recertification as emergency medical technicians. Due to initial delay in establishment of a statutorily required EMTTF Advisory Council and associated regulations, and collection of funds without spending, the EMTTF has carried a surplus since inception. Over the past nine years, this carry-forward surplus has accommodated expenses that have exceeded collections; however, in SFY 2009 the EMTTF retained a \$4M surplus.

In December, 2009, the State Treasurer transferred \$4 million dollars from the EMTTF to the State's General Fund to help offset the State's budget shortfall. This now places the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) in a position where, under current conditions, we are unable to support EMTTF requests at a level equal to the past for this fiscal year and future years.

To accommodate this shortfall and after consultation with the EMTTF Advisory Council, DHSS will now implement changes to existing reimbursement schedules in order to match reimbursements with collections. The EMTTF legislation (Public Law 1992, chapter 143) is explicitly clear that the fund must first pay for all new EMT-Basic education, and then may be used for the continuing education of recertifying EMTs. Therefore, effective on or after April 1, 2010, the EMTTF will no longer reimburse elective continuing education programs with the exception of the Gold Cross subscription initiative, the New Jersey State First Aid Council Annual Convention (October 2010) and the Statewide Conference on EMS (November 2010).

Those who elect not to individually pay for desired courses can take advantage of the numerous no-cost elective educational programs currently offered that will meet, if not exceed, the current elective educational requirements for recertification. These include, but are not limited to; the Gold Cross Magazine CEU articles, newsletters from OEMS and courses on the NJLearn.

DHSS also notes the passage of recent legislation, Public Law 2009, chapter 174, extending EMT certifications to a five year period, a law aimed at reducing overall

costs for training by reducing CEU requirements. As directed, DHSS will soon provide the EMS Community information on implementation of this law.

DHSS recognizes that the changes announced in this letter may effect organizations providing elective continuing education credits. These organizations should notify the Office of Emergency Medical Services of any changes to course approvals previously authorized.

DHSS will closely monitor the expenditures from the EMTTF and we will advise the community when the EMTTF is able to provide reimbursement for elective continuing education courses, and when we can return to our desired 3-Year Certification cycle.

Sincerely,

David W. Gruber
Senior Assistant Commissioner

C: Joseph Tricarico Jr., Assistant Commissioner
Karen Halupke, Director, OEMS
Dr. Stephen Vetrano, Chair, EMTTF Advisory Council