

# EMS is on life support

## End the staffing crisis

**PROBLEM:** There is a severe paramedic and EMT shortage in Michigan, leaving EMS agencies under or short staffed for emergency response. Michigan EMS agencies need approximately 1,000 new paramedics and EMTs to meet the needs of local communities.

The state's current training incentive programs block participation in private paramedic training programs, which make up the majority of education programs in Michigan.

*For example: Michigan Reconnect and Futures for Frontliners require participation at Michigan's community colleges. Only seven community colleges (and one four-year college) offer paramedic programs at this time. College-based programs alone will not fill the EMS shortage and may in fact take qualified staff out of the EMS pipeline and into other areas.*

*Michigan has 13 private paramedic training programs that are ready and able to train new paramedics, and others that would start programs if funding was available.*

**SOLUTION:** Michigan EMS organizations have come together and developed a plan to mitigate the staffing crisis with the help of funding from the State of Michigan. The plan includes:

- **\$50 million for recruitment, retention and training programming** to ambulance operations or EMS education program sponsors. This may include cash recruitment and retention bonuses, student loan payment assistance, tuition assistance, equipment, books, feeds, uniforms and dues associated with state or national membership or accreditation.
- **\$5 million for MDHHS to create a marketing program** to promote careers in emergency medical services.
- **\$2.5 million to simplify the EMS licensing process** by establishing a state-based initial paramedic satellite education program and a Michigan-only licensing exam.

**Even when the pandemic is over, the problems EMS is facing won't be**

