



AGENDA REPORT

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

City Council Meeting

910 Calle Negocio
2nd Floor
San Clemente, California
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Meeting Date: 4/18/2023

Agenda Item: 6F

Department: Finance and Administrative Services
Prepared By Jake Rahn, Financial Services Officer

Subject:
GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Summary:

Approval by the City Council to continue participation in a revised Ground Emergency Medical Transport program will allow the City to receive Medi-Cal patient reimbursements for providing emergency transport services.

Discussion:

The City of San Clemente has been participating in the California Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Quality Assurance Fee (QAF) and the Certified Public Expenditures (CPE) programs, which provide reimbursement from Medicaid funds to help offset the costs of providing emergency ambulance and transport services for Medi-Cal patients. As permitted by Assembly Bill No. 1705, the GEMT QAF and CPE programs were transitioned to the Public Providers Ground Emergency Medical Transport Intergovernmental Transfer (PP-GEMT-IGT) program effective January 1, 2023. This revamped program seeks higher federal fund matching than former GEMT reimbursement programs to assist public GEMT providers that receive Medi-Cal reimbursements for ambulance services. The PP-GEMT-IGT program will require participating entities to fund the non-federal share of expenditures for the program based on projected transports established by the DHCS. The program imposes \$321.95 per transport and reimburses \$946.42 for Medi-Cal managed and fee for service transports.

Changes to Medicaid plans caused previous GEMT programs to become relatively cost neutral and added burdensome reporting and auditing requirements. Staff evaluated the new program parameters to ensure sustainability and participation benefits the City. Contribution estimates requested from DHCS and medical transport data from the City's ambulance billing contractor Wittman Enterprises confirmed significant benefits for continued participation in a GEMT program. Annual program contribution costs are estimated at \$195,000 with a projected reimbursement of \$485,500. Comparing contribution cost to program reimbursement, enrolling as a funding entity would generate \$290,500 in additional ambulance revenues through add-on payments for emergency transports to achieve a higher recovery of costs. These transports will occur regardless of whether the City participates in the program.

Council Options:

- Approve and Authorize the City Manager to initiate participation in the PP-GEMT-IGT program.
- Modify and authorize the City Manager to initiate participation in the PP-GEMT-IGT program.

- Continue the item and direct staff to provide additional information.
- Deny the request for participation in the PP-GEMT-IGT Program.

Fiscal Impact:

If participation is authorized the PP-GEMT-IGT program will positively impact ambulance operating revenues by \$290,500.

Recommended Actions:

Staff Recommendation

Approve and Authorize the City Manager to initiate participation in the PP-GEMT-IGT program.

Attachment:

None.

Notification:

None.