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**EMS as an Essential Service**

WEMSA supports making emergency medical services an essential service that would require all levels of local government (village, city, and county) to provide; similar to police and fire protection.

Currently, contracting for ambulance service is only required at the Town level. This would be the first step towards creating legislation to increase Medicaid funding and allow reimbursement for Community EMS programs.

(Towns) s. 60.565 - Ambulance service. The town board shall contract for or operate and maintain ambulance services unless such services are provided by another person. If the town board contracts for ambulance services, it may contract with one or more providers. The town board may determine and charge a reasonable fee for ambulance service provided under this section. The town board may purchase equipment for medical and other emergency calls.

(Villages) s. 61.64 - Ambulance service. The village board may purchase, equip, operate and maintain ambulances and contract for ambulance service with one or more providers for conveyance of the sick or injured. The village board may determine and charge a reasonable fee for ambulance service provided under this section.

(Cities) s. 62.133 - Ambulance service. The common council may purchase, equip, operate and maintain ambulances and contract for ambulance service with one or more providers for conveyance of the sick or injured. The common council may determine and charge a reasonable fee for ambulance service provided under this section.

(Counties) 59.54 Public protection and safety. (1) Ambulances. The board may purchase, equip, operate and maintain ambulances and contract for ambulance service with one or more providers for conveyance of the sick or injured and make reasonable charges for the use thereof.

# ACTION STEP

**Support an amendment to the statute to make EMS an essential service at all municipal levels**