

# Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services

Report to Interim Joint Committee on Health Services

7-30-2024



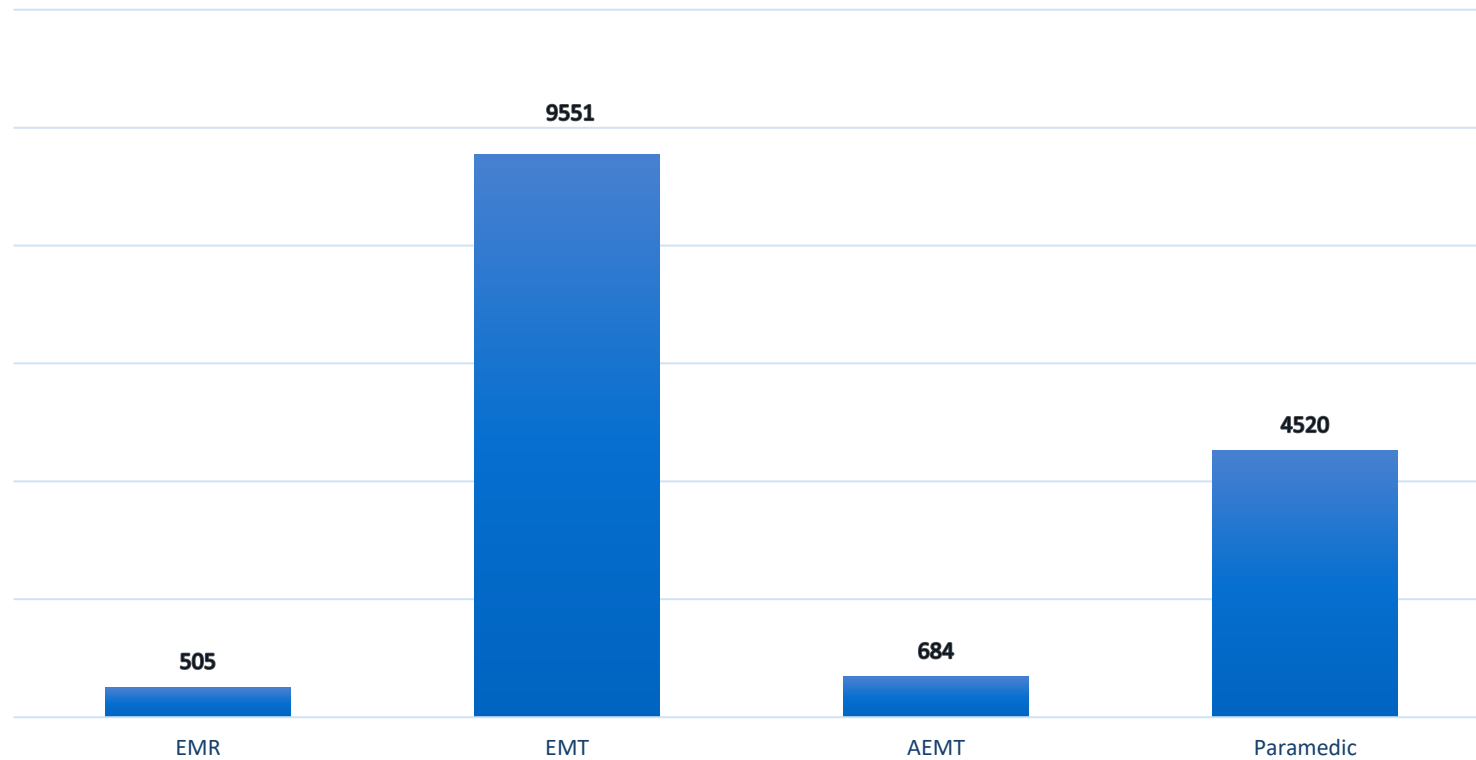
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# PROVIDER SHORTAGES



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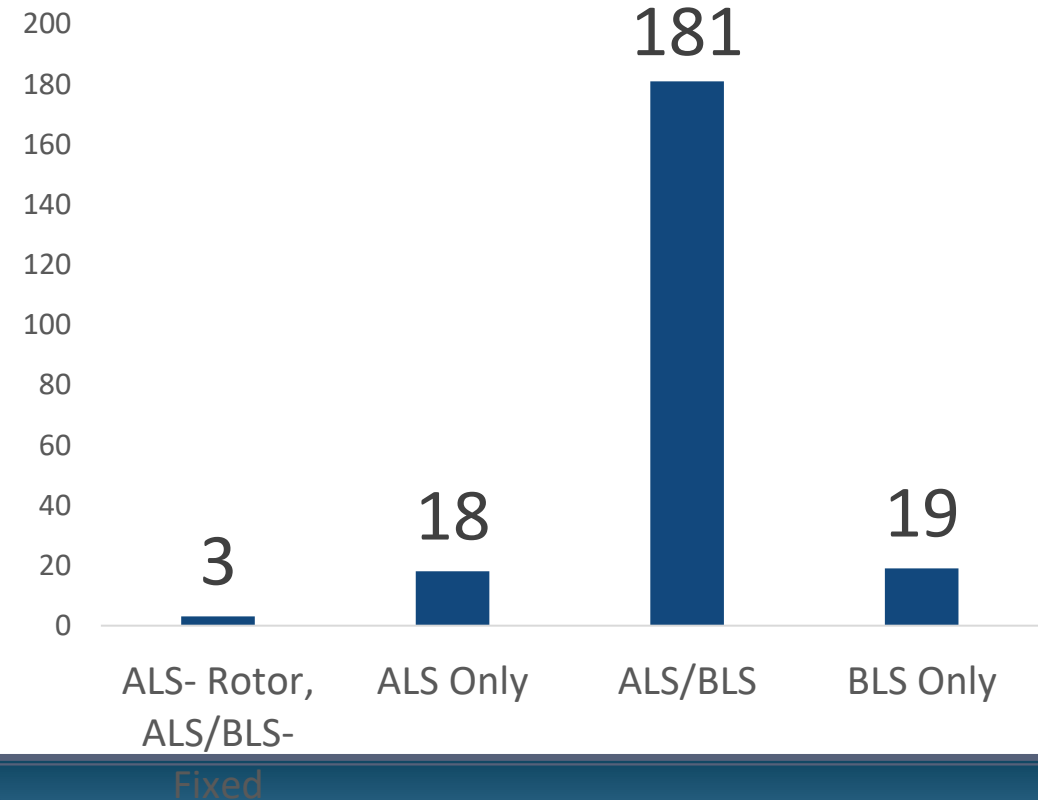
# CURRENTLY LICENSED PROVIDERS = 15,192



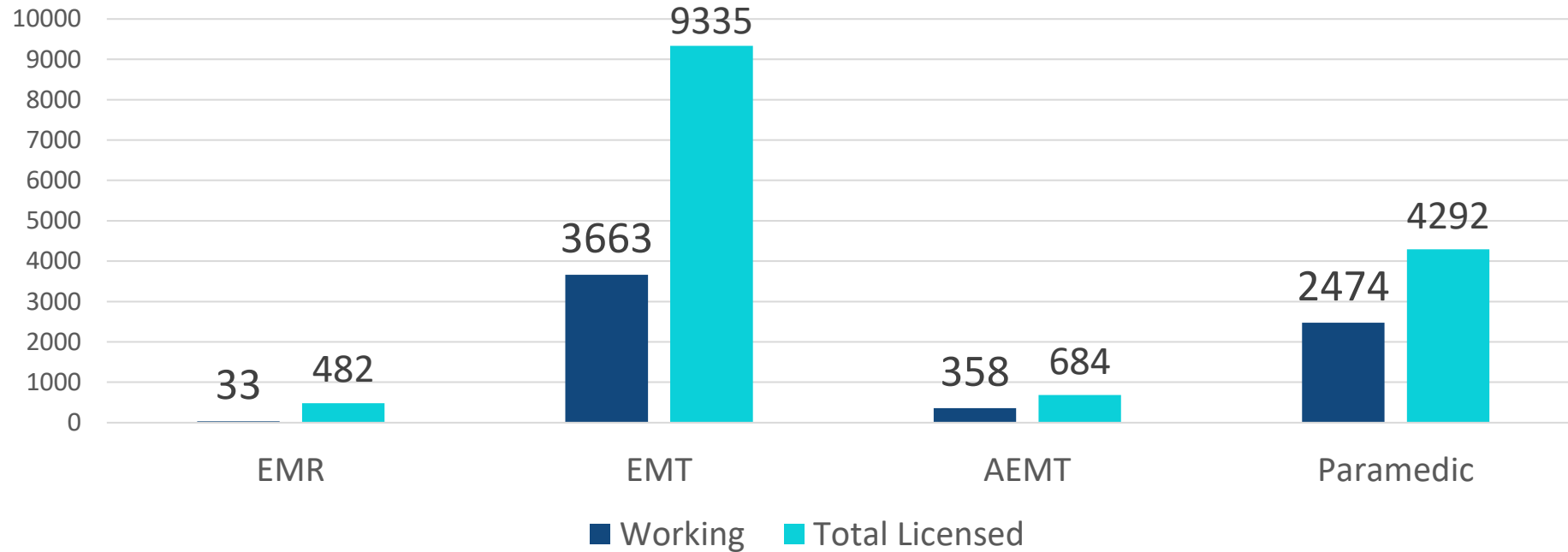
# MAJORITY OF SERVICES ARE ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT

Traditionally requiring paramedic level certification

- **Basic Life Support (BLS):**
  - Manage the airway at a basic level
  - Utilize automated defibrillator
  - Splinting and immobilization
  - A very limited range of medication administration
- **Advanced Life Support (ALS):**
  - Provide basic and advanced life support
  - Advanced airway management
  - Cardiac Monitoring and intervention
  - A relative wide range of emergency medications



# AFFILIATION AND RETENTION



- 6,911 Licensed Providers are affiliated with a service in the Kentucky EMS Information System (KEMSIS).



# PROVIDER ATTRITION

21%

Of prehospital providers will not renew their license in Kentucky.

The number of newly certified paramedics is less than the number who leave the workforce.



# PROVIDERS DECREASE WHILE NEEDS INCREASE

31,006

more requests for ambulance transport annually than five years previous.



# CAUSES





# NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EMS WORKORCE CHALLENGES

Sourced from National Conference of State Legislatures

- Compensation is one of the top reasons EMS clinicians leave their jobs.
- EMS has one of the highest rates of injuries and illnesses.
- Ambulances are often not reimbursed for services unless a patient is transported to a hospital.
- EMS clinicians experience high rates of behavioral and mental health conditions.



# KENTUCKY RECOGNIZED EMS WORKORCE CHALLENGES

Sourced from Kentucky Legislative Emergency Medical Services Task Force

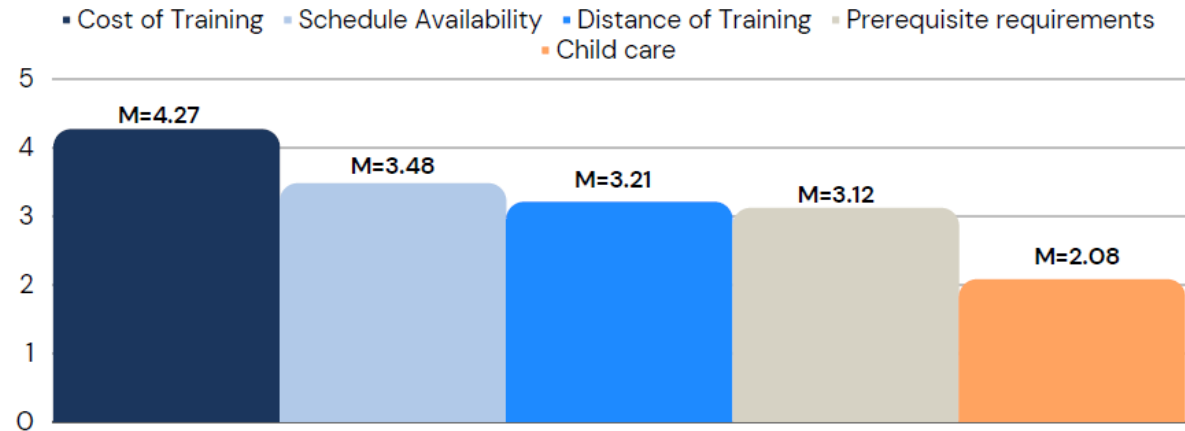
- There is a shortage and/or maldistribution of qualified trainers and training sites across the state, particularly for paramedics and advanced emergency medical technicians in Western and Eastern Kentucky.
- Further expansion of the methods and amounts of reimbursement for EMS may improve the quality of services by increasing the ability of EMS providers to provide appropriate care.
- The number of licensed emergency medical responders, emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, and paramedics has increased very little or has fallen since 2016.
- There is a shortage and/or maldistribution of qualified trainers and training sites across the state, particularly for paramedics and advanced emergency medical technicians in Western and Eastern Kentucky.



# BARRIERS TO PARAMEDIC TRAINING

Sourced from Kentucky Office of Rural Health EMS Survey

Individuals who were licensed and were interested in paramedic training were asked to rate the following barriers on a 0 (not a barrier) to 5 (most prominent barrier) scale.



Participants could write in other barriers to becoming a paramedic.

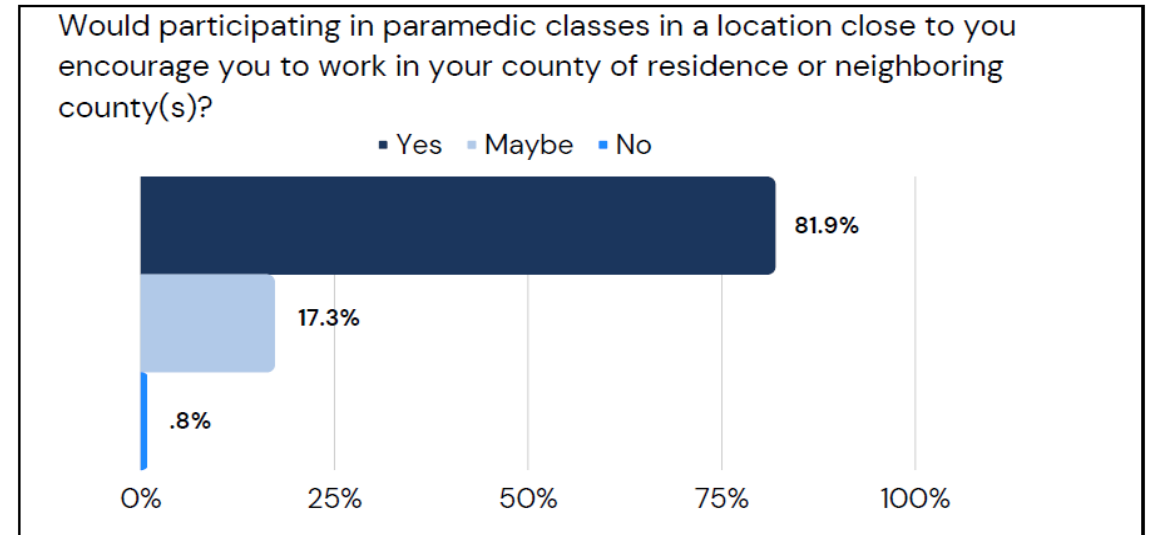
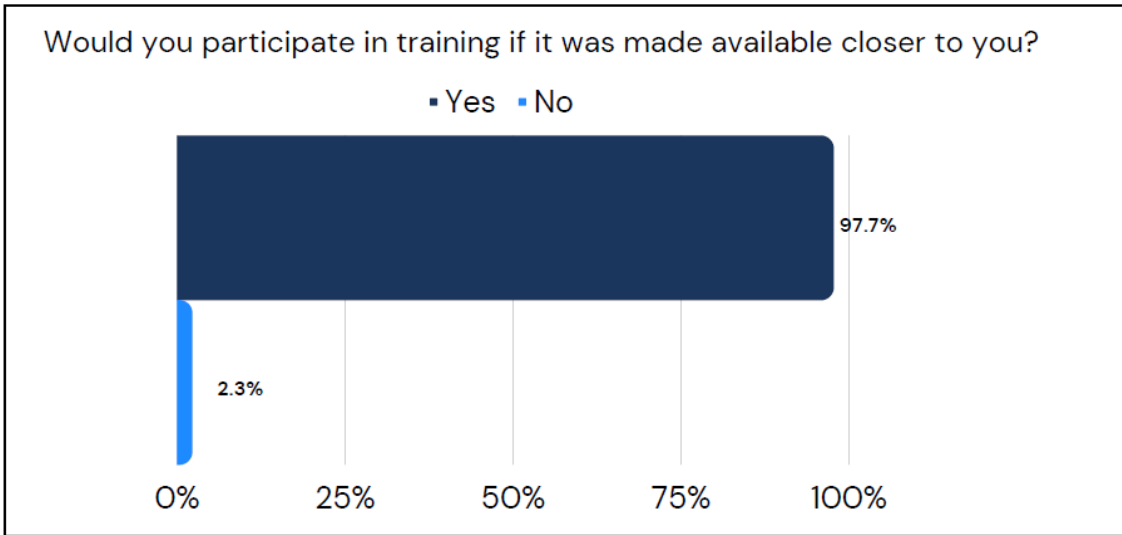
- The most reported barrier was "**pay rate**" (n=62); participants felt no incentive to complete the paramedic training as other professions with similar schooling and preparation earn more income.



# ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Sourced from Kentucky Office of Rural Health EMS Survey

- 1,708 responses collected.
- 1,696 reported being licensed as an EMR, EMT, or EMT-A.
- 53.8% (n=912) report interest in becoming a paramedic.
- 119 of 120 Kentucky counties represented (excluding Trigg).



# REIMBURSEMENT AND FUNDING

- Limited reimbursement for services rendered creates a significant financial shortfall for EMS services.
- EMS services often expend more capital per response than they are compensated for.
- Wage deficits are appreciated but cannot be remedied due to limited operating margins.
- Limited funds are being utilized to offset the increasing cost of equipment and operating costs.
- Initial funding for additional education opportunities does not exist.



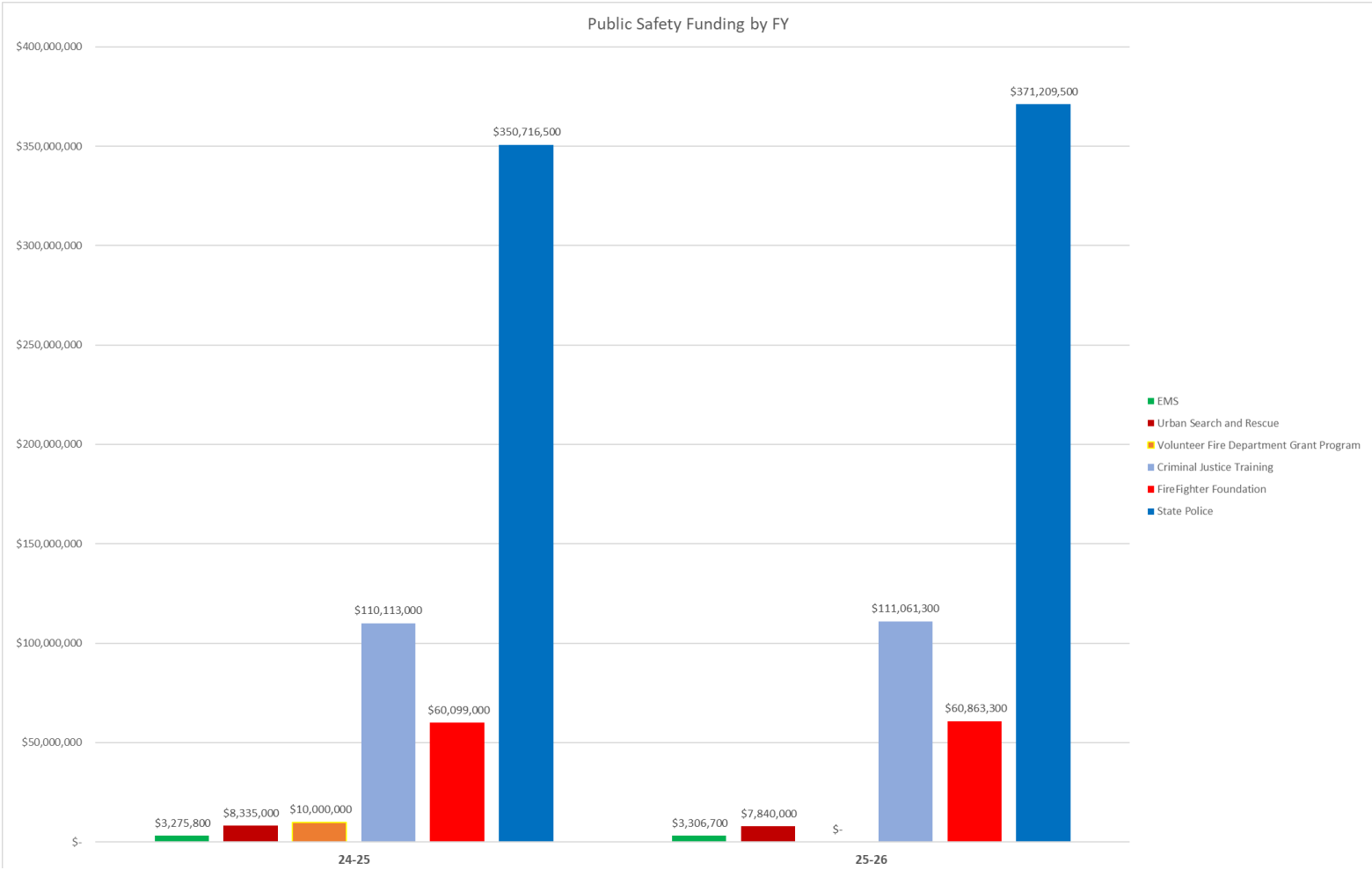
# COST OF BUISNESS

Average Cost for Response \$770  
(2019 NEMESIS Data Set)

	Medicaid	Medicare
Basic Life Support	\$82.50 (-\$687.00)	\$365.67 (-\$404.33)
Advanced Life Support	\$110.00 (-\$660.00)	\$434.24 (-\$335.76)



# PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING BY FISCAL YEAR



# PREVIOUS IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

- Decreased the initial requirements for EMS educators.
- Removed licensing fees for newly certified providers.
- Open reciprocity for providers moving from other states.
- Decreased the number of advanced providers required to maintain ALS coverage.





# GOALS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Increase reimbursement for services in order to increase wages, positively impact both recruitment and retention, as well as expand accessibility and decrease response/wait times.
- Secure funding for addition training sites and student scholarships in order to expand educational opportunities, specifically in underserved rural areas.



# QUESTIONS?

## Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services

500 Mero Street, 5th Floor 5SE32,

Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: 1-866-975-2367

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