

2020 LEGISLATIVE TALKING POINTS



IOWA EMS DAY-ON-THE-HILL & EMS SUMMITT
FEBRUARY 13TH, 2020



EMS: AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE. Our citizens' expectation of Emergency Medical Service has shifted over the last few decades from a time when EMS was an emerging trend to the current assumption that EMS be immediately available whenever and wherever the need may arise. With response times over 30 minutes in many parts of the state and ongoing challenges in finding and retaining a quality workforce, Iowa policy makers and the EMS community need to work together to create benchmarks and intermediate steps to ensure EMS can meet Iowans' expectations. To do this, we need to address two critical areas:

- **FUNDING.** IEMSA urges the State of Iowa to adopt a permanent system of funding for EMS that would allow EMS agencies to staff personnel 24/7, purchase necessary infrastructure, and expand coverage into areas that need it most. Although there are numerous potential funding streams, we encourage the legislature and executive branch to consider the county levy proposal currently introduced in the Iowa legislature. It is the best and most comprehensive plan to date that balances statewide need with local realities and accountability.
- **PERSONNEL.** IEMSA supports robust funding of the Future Ready Iowa initiative that includes EMS-specific recruitment and training incentives. IEMSA also supports the creation of a loan forgiveness program for EMS training and incentives for placement of EMS professionals in rural Iowa where services are needed most.

STAND UP IOWA EMS : THIS YEAR'S IOWA EMS DAY ON THE HILL IS THE AFTERNOON

from 2,-5pm, on Thursday, February 13, 2020. We're hoping you can make time to join us in the Capitol Rotunda to give a face to the huge issues facing Iowa EMS.