



## **SIREN Grant Program Appropriations**

**Request: Please preserve the SIREN Grant Program and provide it with increased funding in FY 2027**

### **What is SIREN?**

The Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs (SIREN) grant program was established to assist rural EMS agencies that deliver pre-hospital care to critically ill and injured patients.

### **How does SIREN work?**

SIREN is the only federal program that currently exists specifically to support rural EMS operations. SIREN grant funding can be used by local and tribal government EMS agencies, as well as non-profit EMS agencies. SIREN grant funding is used by these agencies to train/educate personnel, obtain/maintain licenses and certifications, acquire EMS equipment, recruit and retain personnel, or develop new methods for educating emergency health care providers in the use of technology. SIREN awards are capped at \$200,000 and grantees are required to put up a ten percent local match.

### **What challenges do rural EMS agencies face?**

Rural communities typically have a limited tax base with which to support EMS activities. While a lack of public support is a challenge all EMS agencies face, this challenge is compounded in rural areas where patient transport fees typically do not cover the cost of providing service due to a lack of call volume and the long distances that ambulances often must travel to reach patients and then take them to the hospital. Additionally, most rural communities do not have their own hospital, and many have little to no medical service providers present apart from the local EMS agency. EMS agencies therefore serve an especially critical role as part of the healthcare continuum in remote or super-rural communities.

Demographic trends show that on average the population in rural communities is aging, which means that the demand for services is likely to increase. At the same time, as younger residents of rural America increasingly move in search of work or commute to jobs in more densely populated communities, the rural EMS workforce – mostly residents who serve on a volunteer basis – is shrinking. SIREN gives rural EMS agencies assistance to overcome the otherwise daunting resource and staffing challenges that they face.

For more information or questions please contact the NVFC's Chief of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Ryan Woodward at [Ryan@NVFC.org](mailto:Ryan@NVFC.org)