



Formstack Submission For: FY25 Efficiency and Regionalization Grant Application

Submitted at 10/10/24 10:54 AM

Please identify the type of organization that is applying as the lead applicant for this grant::

Town

What is the name of the organization?::

Town of Great Barrington

Grant contact for the lead applicant::

Mark Pruhenski

Contact title::

Town Manager

Municipal Address::

334 Main St.
Town of Great Barrington, MA 01230

Contact phone::

14135281619

Contact email:

mpruhenski@townofgb.org

Name of person representing lead applicant who would sign a grant contract if grant awarded::

Mark Pruhenski

Signatory title::

Town Manager

Please check this box if this application is for a project with two or more eligible entities seeking to undertake a regionalization/shared services or other efficiency project together::

Yes, this is a multi-jurisdictional application.

Please enter the names of the other participating entities. Please do not include the lead applicant. The lead applicant should be entered at the top of the form.:

The towns of Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Sheffield, and Stockbridge. Our (non-municipal) community partners include Action Ambulance, Berkshire Health Systems, and Southern Berkshire Ambulance.

Grant Amount – please enter the grant amount requested::

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180500

Purpose - describe the proposed project, including purpose of the grant request, project objectives, and the challenge(s) this project would address::

On behalf of 12 towns in Southern Berkshire County, the Town of Great Barrington is seeking a consultant to study the feasibility of developing a regional service delivery model for emergency medical services. In 2019, the region partnered with Hanifen and Associates to analyze the capability of numerous EMS organizations within Southern Berkshire County to answer EMS calls and utilize partnering agencies for emergency medical calls. However,

the results of that study did not consider or include many critical stakeholders and public safety partners within the region, resulting in recommendations that were never implemented or acted upon.

Shortly following the release of the final report from that study, all EMS providers were focused on managing one of the most challenging medical catastrophes of the 21st century, Covid-19.

Now that Covid-19 is no longer considered a statewide emergency, and rather is simply a day-to-day illness managed and treated like any other, leaders in Southern Berkshire County recognize that the challenges that spawned the first study are still very much affecting EMS providers ability to provide fast, reliable, professional emergency medical response to much of the region.

Beginning in the Spring of 2024, Representative Smitty Pignatelli began holding meetings for all stakeholders and leaders in Southern Berkshire County to again begin discussing the need to study alternative service delivery models that would provide more reliable and sustainable emergency medical services to the region, as well as the development of educational programs that can offer EMT classes to create a pipeline of staff in the region moving forward. As a result, the Southern Berkshire Region is interested again in looking at a regional emergency medical service delivery

model for 12 towns in Southern Berkshire County. This study will include data analysis, public outreach and communications, the development and facilitation of a Task Force, survey work, GIS analysis, and ultimately will recommend some combination of changes to the current system to provide more sustainable delivery of emergency medical services to the region.

**Do you have a detailed purpose description in Excel or Word?
Please enter the word "attachment" in the text box above and upload it here::**

Benefits - identify project benefits including efficiencies, cost savings, enhanced service delivery, and/or improved public access to local government services::

Like most regionalization efforts around public safety and emergency medical response, cost is a factor, but cost savings is not the primary driver in pursuing this project. Sustainability and continuity of service are the primary goals for establishing an EMS model in a rural area that can withstand economic and demographic fluctuations. Pressure on regional wages, accelerated turnover due to wage competition, and the lack of suitable and ongoing training opportunities all contribute to staffing challenges experienced by most, if not all EMS providers in the region.

The goal of this project is to create a sustainable EMS model for Southern Berkshire County that can meet current

and future demands of the region. This phase of the project will analyze the current conditions and develop a recommended model, including but not limited to the governance structure (municipal, non-profit, for-profit, or some combination), the staffing structure, capital asset inventory and needs, a high level facility analysis (engineering may be required as part of implementation), and recommended assessment model and budgetary considerations, in partnership with the region's EMS Task Force, consisting of representation from each municipal partner on this application, as well as our non-municipal partners. Benefits include enhanced service delivery, improved training options, and a long-term sustainable model for providing EMS services in a rural area.

Do you have a detailed benefits description in Excel or Word?
Please enter the word "attachment" in the text box above and upload it here::

Cost Impact and Sustainability Plan - identify any new costs that will be incurred and how the costs will be paid for or offset, including ongoing operational costs. Describe how this new initiative will be self-sustaining within one

A primarily volunteer EMS model has become less reliable with a non-existent pipeline of new volunteers. Even staffing part and full-time positions is a challenge in this climate. In both cases, the EMS industry is more complex now with time consuming and expensive training requirements. This study will include the

year and financially viable for the long-term::

following two (2) deliverables: a final report with recommendations, analysis, options for governance models and partnerships, and a financial workbook detailing the financial implications and impacts of various service delivery models.

Funding requested through this application is limited to a Feasibility Study. The true cost impact and sustainability plan is not known at this time.

Measures of Success - what defines success for this project? Describe how the success of the project will be evaluated. Include expected measurable improvements in service delivery or efficiency::

Success will be measured in a number of ways.

- 1- Timely completion of the study and recommendations noted above.
- 2- Robust community involvement and engagement throughout this process.
- 3- Improved efficiency and sustainability of EMS service delivery in the Southern Berkshires.
- 4- And ultimately the adoption and implementation of the recommendations noted in the above deliverables.

Project Budget - provide a detailed and realistic project budget estimate. Include breakdown of amount requested by activity/task::

The project budget is as follows:

- 1- Consulting services: \$158,000
 - 2- Direct mailing expenses: \$ 10,000
 - 3- Legal counsel review \$ 7,500
 - 4- Community meeting expenses \$ 5,000
- Total \$180,500

Do you have a detailed project budget in Excel or Word? Please enter the word "attachment" in the text box above and upload it here::

Project Timeline - provide a timeline for the proposed project. Note projects must be completed within 18 months of the award date.:

The timeline is expected to be 18 months from project kick-off to final report and implementation

Do you have a detailed project timeline in Excel or Word? Please enter the word "attachment" in the text box above and upload it here::

Please enter any additional comments you have about your application::

Do you have any additional documents you would like to upload to support your application? Please enter the word "attachment" in the text box above and upload them here::

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