

# AMERICAN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

## Iowa EMS In Crisis!

Unsustainable reimbursement for life-saving emergency medical services, coupled with rising costs, has put a substantial strain on ambulance providers, America's public health safety net. Support EMS access through fair reimbursement for first responders!

### How Legislators Can Help EMS Today

| State EMS Office and Office of Rural Health                                                                                             | Federal & State Officials                                                                                                                              | State Legislature & Medicaid Office                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rural Health Transformation Program                                                                                                     | Inclusive EMS Grants                                                                                                                                   | Support Medicaid Medicare Parity in Your State                                                                             |
| Ensure that ambulance services are meaningful participants in RHTP fund awards for workforce, access to care, innovative programs, etc. | Ensure that workforce and equipment grants from the federal and state governments are open to all provider types public, private, fire, and nonprofit. | Reimbursement for caring for Medicaid patients can lag even behind Medicare. Support sustainability efforts in your state! |

### Skyrocketing Costs for EMS Providers in Iowa

Although reimbursement from Medicare and other payers remains stagnant, ambulance mobile healthcare providers are facing skyrocketing costs. Many ambulance services struggle to keep their doors open.

| Rising Wages                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |         |            | Fuel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Medical Supplies                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 38.6%↑36.2%↑                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |         |            | 18.4%↑                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 12%↑                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| EMT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |         | Paramedic  | In the Midwest (PADD 2) of the United States, which includes Iowa, the average cost of regular gasoline rose from \$2.49 per gallon in 2019 to \$2.94 per gallon in 2025, representing a 18.4% increase. SOURCE: US ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION | EMS agencies report an increase in costs of 12%, on average, for supplies 2019 – 2022, with no end in sight. SOURCE: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMTs EMS ECONOMIC & OPERATIONAL MODELS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY |
| Avg. Hourly Wage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | EMTs    | Paramedics |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 2021 Rate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | \$15.66 | \$21.46    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 2025 Rate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | \$21.62 | \$29.22    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| EMS faces a chronic staffing shortage as reimbursement shortfalls have not allowed ambulance services to pay emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics competitive wages. We cannot stop the flow of first responders out of this profession without sustainable funding. SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR |         |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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## Ambulance Reimbursement Remains Flat

Access to care is threatened as Medicare rates remain stagnant despite rising costs. EMS needs YOUR support to keep services rolling.

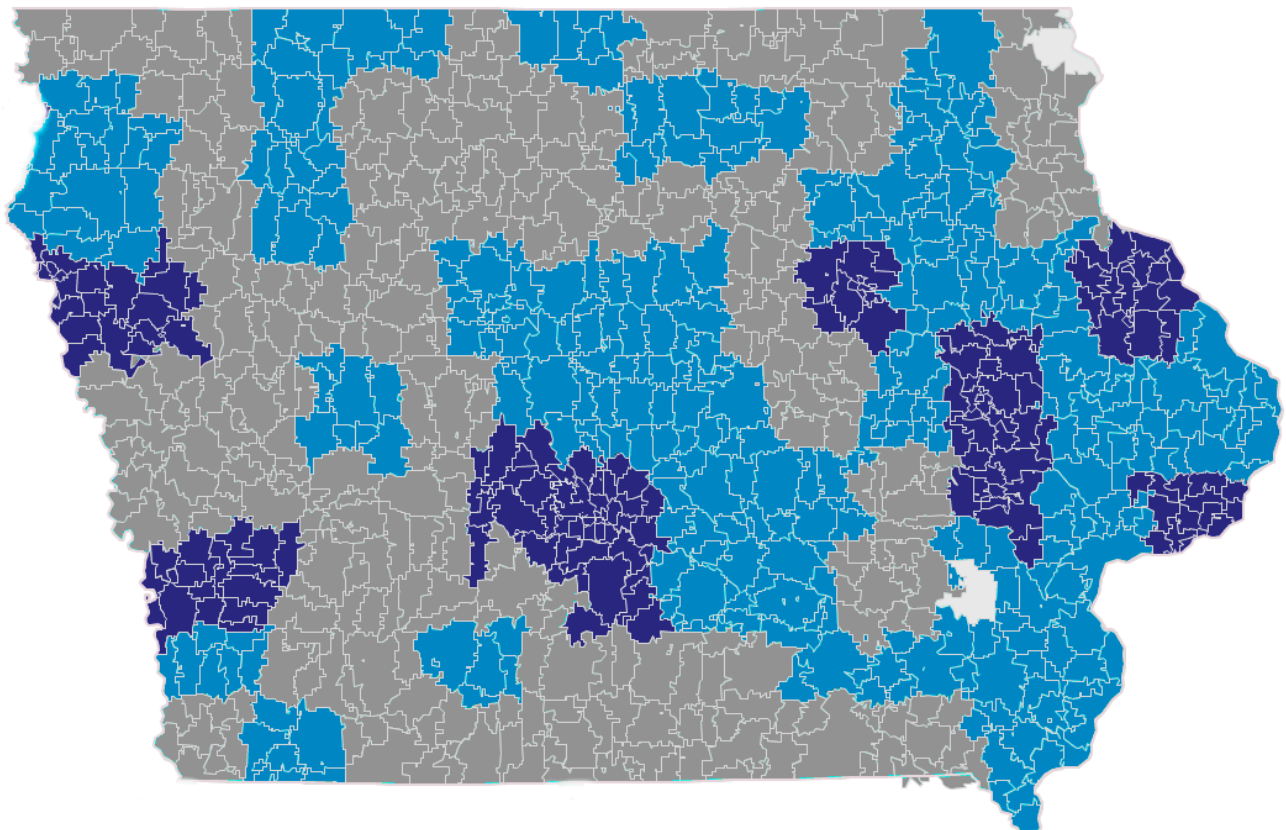
| Medicare Reimbursement  | BLS Emergency (A0429) | ALS Emergency (A0427) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2020 Rate               | \$357.42              | \$424.43              |
| 2026 Rate               | \$441.05              | \$523.75              |
| Medicaid Reimbursement  | BLS Emergency         | ALS Emergency         |
| 2019 Rate               | \$114.30              | \$127.01              |
| 2026 Rate               | \$114.30              | \$127.01              |
| % of 2026 Medicare Rate | 25.93%                | 24.25%                |

## Medicare Add-Ons are Essential

The Medicare Ambulance Add-Ons are critically important to ambulance suppliers/providers in Iowa. The map shows that while there are urban areas in the state, a substantial number of ambulance providers are in rural areas and super rural areas. All ambulance providers in Iowa rely upon these add-ons.

| Medicare Add-ons                                     | Super-Rural | Rural | Urban |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Current percentages<br>Expire 12/31/2027             | 22.6%       | 3.0%  | 2.0%  |
| 119 <sup>th</sup> Congress<br>H.R. 2232 – Proposed % | 22.6%       | 3.0%  | 2.0%  |
| 119 <sup>th</sup> Congress<br>S.1643 - Proposed %    | 26.7%       | 4.3%  | 3.4%  |

| Map Legend       |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Urban areas      | Blue       |
| Rural areas      | Light Blue |
| Super Rural      | Gray       |
| Data Unavailable | White      |



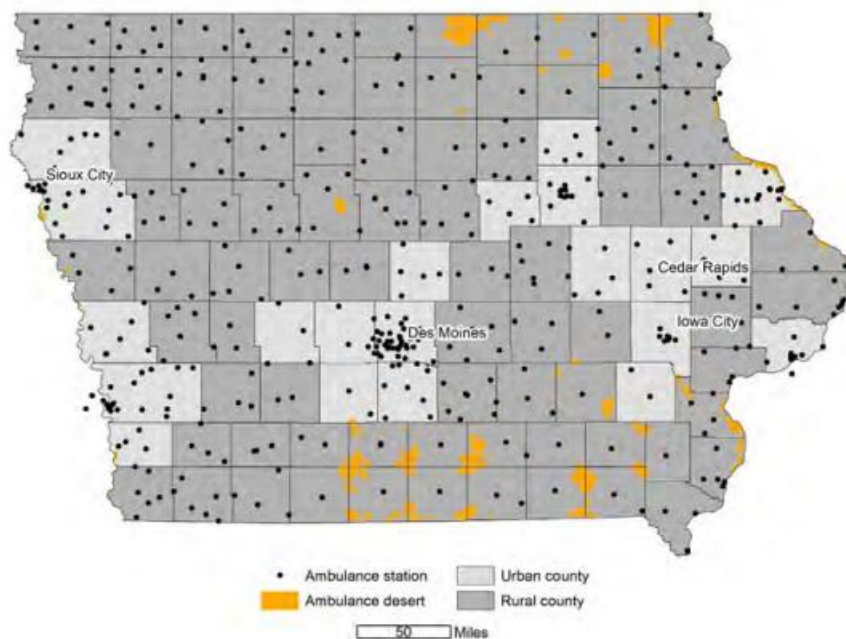
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## Ambulance Deserts: 37.4% of Iowa Counties Impacted

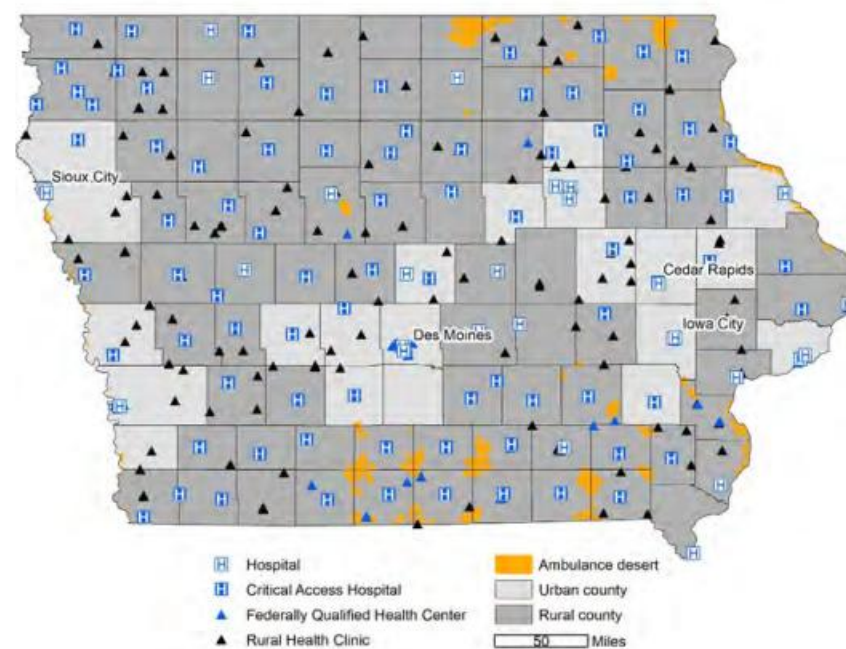
37 of Iowa's 99 counties (37.4%) have an ambulance desert, which is defined by places or people that are 25 minutes or more away from an ambulance station. SOURCE: MAINE RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH.

### IOWA

Ambulance Locations and Deserts



Ambulance Deserts and Health Care Facilities



| Ambulance stations | Ambulance desert population |                 | Rural county ambulance desert population |                        |                        |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| n                  | n                           | % of state pop. | n                                        | % of rural county pop. | % of total desert pop. |
| 483                | 9,289                       | 0.3%            | 7,952                                    | 0.6%                   | 85.6%                  |

Data sources: Iowa Bureau of Emergency and Trauma Services; Esri; US Census Bureau; Health Resources & Services Administration; USDA Economic Research Service.