



DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Scott Walker
Governor

1 WEST WILSON STREET
P O BOX 2659
MADISON WI 53701-2659

Kitty Rhoades
Secretary

State of Wisconsin

608-266-1568

FAX: 608-261-6392

TTY: 888-701-1253

Department of Health Services

dhs.wisconsin.gov/ems

Numbered Memo Series 14-02
March 2014

TO: All First Responder Service Directors

FROM: Brian Litza, EMS Director
Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Unit

SUBJECT: 2015 Department of Transportation First Responder Grants



Over the last several years, the Wisconsin EMS Program has worked with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WI DOT) to provide National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) funds for development of first responder groups in rural areas. The grant provided funding for initial training and equipment for new first responders. Due to changes in the grant requirements, we will not be offering First Responder grants for fiscal year 2015.

The new DOT grant guidance specifies that the grant will cover 25% of the cost incurred for training and equipment, a change from the previously covered 75%.

We deployed a survey in December 2013 to better understand the importance of this funding to the services and first responders. The survey results showed that the majority of the first responder groups would not apply for a grant to cover only 25% of the cost of training and equipment. Therefore, the EMS Program will not be pursuing the first responder grant through the WI DOT as provided by NHTSA. If you have further questions, please contact our office at 608-266-1568 or via email at dhsemssmail@dhs.wisconsin.gov.