

UPPER DAUPHIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Regional Cooperation and Issues of Municipalities in Upper Dauphin County



November 10, 2005

Dear Municipal Leaders:

Earlier this year the Upper Dauphin County Council of Governments (COG) formed an EMS Committee to review the financial information of Upper Dauphin County Emergency Services, Inc. (UDCES – Medic 6). The committee was directed to determine how much a financial need existed (if any) and to make a recommendation on how to offset the need to the rest of COG.

As you are aware, UDCES is the only Advanced Life Support (ALS) EMS provider for most of the area served by COG. Additionally, many of our member municipalities have UDCES as their primary Basic Life Support (BLS) EMS provider. Should UDCES no longer continue to operate in our area, each of the municipalities served by UDCES will be forced to find another provider to render these essential services to our residents.

Based upon their review, the committee confirmed that UDCES had financial troubles that would justify financial support from the member municipalities. The Committee made a recommendation that the municipalities served by UDCES provide voluntary funding through donations.

In July the committee sent your municipality a package of information detailing its recommendation. In short the committee recommended a donation of \$45,000 to UDCES to offset their 2005 Workman's Compensation Insurance amount for paid employees. This amount would be divided among the COG municipalities using a formula based upon population and the level of ambulance service provided by UDCES for ALS and BLS.

In this formula, municipalities that are only covered for ALS services have a recommendation of approximately half the amount of those who are covered for both ALS and BLS services. The population figures are the same as used by COG for dues for 2005. The recommendation for the voluntary donation is for the 2006 budget year.

You can access a spreadsheet detailing the committee's recommended donation for each municipality on the COG official web site at: <http://www.udcog.org/>. The spreadsheet will be in the "Funding EMS" project located in the "Projects" section of the web site. A copy is also enclosed for your convenience.

I ask that you not take this request lightly, as our municipalities are depending on these essential services.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the committee for their service to COG and its member municipalities. They have worked diligently to provide each of us accurate information and a sensible recommendation.

If you have any questions regarding this information please feel free to contact me at 692-5647.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Colton S. Weber
President
Upper Dauphin Council of Governments