



SFY 2025 LAKE COUNTY AMBULANCE

Progress Report

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Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
Employment and Training Programs Division

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Introduction

Lake County Ambulance (LCA) was granted state funding to establish a training program for Cook County and Lake County high school students interested in pursuing careers as emergency medical technicians.

Funds for this project are appropriated in [Minnesota Session Laws – 2024, Chapter 120, S.F. 5289, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 3\(g\)](#). The amount appropriated for the Lake County Ambulance in SFY 2025 is \$100,000.00 (Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development is permitted to retain up to 5% of the \$100,000.00 appropriation for administration and monitoring of the grant). This is a one-time appropriation.

Summary of Goals and Objectives Presented in the Work Plan

The LCA program targets high school juniors and seniors interested in emergency medical technician training and certification. The program's goals include:

- Address barriers and enhance access to EMS education by leveraging local rural EMS resources.
- Offer EMT training free of charge to high school students in Lake and Cook Counties.
- Expand vocational development opportunities for older youth.
- Offer internships and career opportunities for EMTs at both Lake County Ambulance Service and North Shore Health Ambulance.
- Develop growth opportunities for current ambulance service employees.

Participant Data

Participants Served: Individual Services (cumulative)	Total Participants Served	5
(1) Gender	Project to Date: 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025	
(1) Male	2	
(2) Female	3	
(3) Gender non-confirming	0	
(4) Prefer Not to Answer	0	
(2) Age	Project to Date: 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025	
(1) 15 and under	0	
(2) 16-17	4	
(3) 18-19	1	
(4) 20-21	0	
(5) 22-24	0	
(3) Race/Ethnicity	Project to Date: 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025	
(1) Hispanic/Latino	0	
(2) American Indian or Alaska Native	0	
(3) Asian/Pacific Islander	0	
(4) Black, African American, or African	0	
(5) White	5	
(6) Multi-Race or Other	0	

(4) Education at Enrollment	Project to Date: 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025
(1) 8 th grade and under	0
(2) 9th Grade-12th Grade	5
(3) High School graduate or equivalent	0
(4) Some Post-Secondary Coursework	0
(4) At Risk Characteristics	Project to Date: 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025
(1) Limited English proficient	0
(2) Participants who receive Public Assistance	0
(3) Economically Disadvantaged	0
(4) Participants who report a disability	0
(5) High school drop-out – all participants included	0
(6) Participants who are justice involved	0
(7) Pregnant or parenting youth	0
(8) Foster Youth	0
(9) Participants showing as Homeless Participant/Runaway	0
(10) Not employed at program enrollment – all participants included	2
(11) Veteran – all participants included	0

Program Services, Activities, and Other Related Assistance

	Number
1. Received Education or Job Training Activities	5
2. Received Work Experience Activities	5
3. Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities	5
4. Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities	5
5. Received Internship or Apprenticeship Activities	0
6. Received Case Management, Guidance, Counseling Services	0
7. Received Support Services	5
8. Received Mentoring Services	5

Outcome Data

Indicators of Performance	Number
1. Attained work readiness or education goals	In progress
2. Completed program objective	In progress
3. Received Academic Credit or Service-Learning Credit	In progress
4. Obtained high school diploma or GED or remained in school	5
5. Obtained an Industry-Recognized EMT Credential	In progress
6. Enrolled in Post-Secondary Education	1
7. Entered Employment	0
8. Exited the Program	0

Expenditure Data

Expenditures from July 27, 2024 through September 30, 2025 for grant 5LCA6300:

SFY 2025 Budget Category	SFY 2025 Budget	SFY 2025 Expenditures through September 2025
Administration	\$9,500.00	\$8,285.00
Direct Services/Project Staff	\$29,600.00	\$23,530.00
Contracted Services	\$6,500.00	\$1,564.00
Direct Customer Training	\$44,025.00	\$43,053.00
Support Services	\$1,875.00	\$1,240.00
Travel	\$3,500.00	\$2,661.50
TOTAL	\$95,000.00	\$80,333.50

Outcomes

- **Enrollment and Engagement:** Lake County Ambulance Service successfully enrolled 5 high school students in the inaugural EMT program.
- **Training Progress:** All students have completed the EMT curriculum and are prepared for their psychomotor competency exams.
- **Certification Readiness:** Students are on track to achieve EMT certification, supporting workforce development in EMS.
- **Career Exposure:** Provided students with hands-on experience in emergency medical services, fostering early career exploration.
- **Program Implementation:** Established a structured, sustainable program within the first year, demonstrating feasibility and potential for future expansion.

Program Highlights

- **Progressive Skill Development:** Students have advanced through the full EMT curriculum, with NREMT Psychomotor Practice Sessions increasing in complexity to mimic real-world EMS calls, ensuring practical readiness.
- **Peer Collaboration and Cognitive Preparation:** The student cohort has actively worked together outside of class to practice NREMT Cognitive Exam questions, promoting teamwork, accountability, and independent learning.
- **Program Implementation and Best Practices:** Lake County Ambulance Service successfully launched a structured and sustainable program in its first year, integrating experiential learning, progressive skill challenges, mentorship, and peer-supported study. The program has also secured additional public and private funding, guaranteeing its continuation and serving as a model for future high school EMT initiatives.

Story of Impact: Sarah

“First of all, thank you to those who made it possible for this program to happen, and all of your work that went into building it up and attaining the funding. This truly was an amazing and unique opportunity that you, along with Lake County Ambulance Service gave to us students. Not only did we have access to a beneficial curriculum that offered us many resources to foster different learning types, but we also were able to use many different simulation materials.

These materials, such as choking simulators, fake wounds and moulage, an OB mannequin, a skeleton, and much more, allowed us to have hands-on experience that greatly benefited us by giving us a more realistic learning experience. Our instructors did an amazing job at making sure we could practice with all of these materials and teaching us to make sure we understood how to properly treat the illness/injury and the patient. I can say now that I feel confident in treating/stabilizing patients as an EMT would.

The confidence I have was not always the case though, and that is why this program has meant so much to me. Let me start off with the fact that I was quite skeptical that EMS was for me before this program; I chose to do the program just to get a taste for healthcare, as I've always known it's where I belong. I never imagined that these nine months of EMT training would teach me so much, and quite frankly make me fall in love with EMS. Through class, simulations, scenarios, and every interaction in between, I grew as a person, I was pushed in the best way possible. This program challenged almost every part of me by forcing me to problem solve with a team/partner and be resourceful in every circumstance, especially in those that are less than ideal. I had my whole mental model changed many times in order to appropriately and professionally handle unique situations and scenarios. I am very grateful to have then been able to do many ride alongs with Lake County Ambulance and applied everything I was learning in class, in real life. I was confident enough to aid in patient assessment, which, in turn, allowed me to build rapport with patients. This is where I learned the compassion, empathy, patience, and understanding that goes into patient care and how important it is. During one ride along, in particular, we had a patient who was going through a really hard time emotionally, and she talked to me about it, and I listened and was able to give her some encouragement. I have never forgotten that day, or the feeling of making a patient feel heard and seen in their darkest moments, and how much it impacted me. Now, all of this to say that I would never have had this experience or growth without the *"EMT In the Schools"* class that built me up and pushed me to that moment.

I have already encouraged everyone I know that wants to go into healthcare to get their EMT, as I now know how important and rewarding the role can be. Being able to do this class during high school and college has been a huge factor that allowed me to successfully participate in the class and complete the material. I also have to mention that our instructors from LCAS poured so much into our education, and they are also the reason for my success in this course, as they were always there, always finding new ways to stump us and make us think outside the box, always encouraging us when things got hard, and showing us that they cared about us. I will be forever grateful for this opportunity I've had and its impact on my life.

New Grant Funds

As of October 31, 2025, state grant funds for the SFY 2025 are 85% expended. They are expected to be fully expended by the grant end date. No new direct appropriation state funds have been granted to LCA for the SFY26-27 biennium.