



Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services Funding Policy

1. Statement of Policy

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs may provide funding to support community governments with established Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue services.

2. Principles

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will adhere to the following principles when implementing this policy:

- (1) Community governments play a critical role in developing and delivering programs to ensure the safety of residents within their municipal boundaries and on adjoining year-round and seasonal highways.
- (2) The Government of the Northwest Territories continues to support a community-based highway rescue service delivery model that is encompassed into a long-term comprehensive and coordinated system of services in the Northwest Territories.

3. Scope

This policy guides the allocation of funding to eligible community governments to assist with the provision of community-based ambulance and highway rescue services.

4. Definitions

Contribution – as defined in Financial Administration Manual directive 805, a conditional transfer of approved funds to a third party to fulfil a statutory obligation or other Government objective within a specified time frame.

Eligible Community Government – is a corporation established under or continued by the *Charter Communities Act*, the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, the *Hamlets Act*, the *Tłı̄chǫ Community Government Act*, or any Recognized First Nations Council responsible for delivering municipal services; with established community-based Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue services.

Established Community-Based Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services – services provided by a community government under the authorization of a municipal bylaw.



Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services Funding Policy

Ground Ambulance – a service provided by qualified responders using specialized equipment to provide life-saving and life-sustaining care and transportation of persons requiring medical care to health care facilities.

Highway Rescue – a service that uses specialized equipment operated by qualified responders for the safe removal of individual(s) from hazardous situations, resulting from highway incidents.

5. Authority and Accountability

(1) General

This policy is issued in accordance with Financial Management Board’s delegation of authority to Ministers to establish grants and contribution policies. Authority and accountability is further defined in Financial Administration Manual directives 805 and 810, and as follows:

(a) Minister

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (the Minister) is accountable to the Financial Management Board for the implementation of this policy.

(b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (the Deputy Minister) is accountable to the Minister and responsible to the Minister for the administration of this policy.

(2) Specific

(a) Minister

The Minister may:

- (i) approve contributions according to the terms and conditions outlined in this policy;
- (ii) approve changes to this policy; and



Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services Funding Policy

- (iii) delegate the authority to the Deputy Minister to approve contributions according to the terms and conditions outlined in this policy.
- (b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister has the following authority and accountability, which they may delegate to the Director responsible or to Regional Superintendents:

- (i) approve contributions to community governments for the purposes outlined in this policy.

6. Provisions

(1) Allocation of Funds

- (a) Funding will be issued through a Contribution Agreement.
- (b) Funding amounts will be allocated based on the total amount of funding available and the number of eligible community governments.
- (c) \$50,000 is the maximum annual contribution each fiscal year.

(2) Eligibility

- (a) Specific eligibility requirements are contained in the approved guidelines.

(3) Use of Funds

- (a) Funds provided under this policy must be used for expenditures directly related to the provision of community-based Ground Ambulance or Highway Rescue services on territorial year-round and seasonal highways.
- (b) Funding may be used for new initiatives or to top up existing funding being accessed through other sources to offset the costs of providing emergency services outside of municipal boundaries.



Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services Funding Policy

- (c) The following activities are examples of expenditures that are considered eligible under this policy:
 - (i) Upgrades, major repair, or enhancements to existing equipment or the purchase of new equipment; and
 - (ii) Training.

(4) Accountability Requirements

- (a) An annual report, which will include a summary of expenditures associated with the delivery of Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue services and supporting financial statements, must be submitted to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs within 30 days of the end of the Government of the Northwest Territories' fiscal year.

7. Financial Resources

Financial resources required under this policy are conditional on approval of funds in the Main Estimates by the Legislative Assembly and there being a sufficient unencumbered balance in the appropriate activity for the fiscal year for which the funds would be required.

8. Prerogative of the Minister

Nothing in this policy shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Minister or Deputy Minister to make decisions or take actions respecting contributions. In this regard, the Minister or Deputy Minister may make an exception to this policy. Any exception will require substantiation in writing and must be recorded with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Shane Thompson
Minister

December 12, 2022

Date