



Fix the Crisis: Compensate EMS agencies for Prisoner Transports

The Problem: EMS agencies across the state were not paid for emergency responses to Michigan prisons over the last several years. Agencies should have been paid by Wellpath, the Michigan Department of Corrections' (MDOC) former healthcare provider, for their lifesaving work. Wellpath is no longer MDOC's healthcare provider and has since declared bankruptcy, leaving EMS agencies on the hook for nearly \$6 million.

These deficits have left gaping holes in the operational funds of EMS agencies around the state. Without repayment of these bills, EMS agencies are being forced to shrink services to their local communities and risk going out of business. In the Eastern Upper Peninsula, Kinross EMS alone is owed nearly \$500,000 and only has 10 days of operating funds in the bank, leaving no buffer for any potential issues. The agency has already reduced from four crews to three and will have to reduce or eliminate services soon if repayment doesn't occur.

DID YOU KNOW?

EMS Agencies are **REQUIRED** by law to respond and transport patients regardless of their ability to pay or their insurer.

Our Efforts To Date:

1. Impacted agencies have been trying to work with Wellpath to recoup costs for two years and received bankruptcy letters in late 2024 from the company.
2. MAAS tried to work with MDOC to recoup the funds but the department said it had paid Wellpath and it had upheld its end of the contract, leaving EMS agencies in the lurch.
3. In summer 2024, MAAS asked the Michigan Legislature to appropriate the \$6 million to reimburse the affected EMS agencies. As a supplemental has not been past since, no action has been taken.

Our Ask: Reimburse the affected EMS agencies for these unpaid bills NOW!