



County of Erie

**CHRIS COLLINS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

TO: All EMT Students

FROM: ECEMS & Erie Community College EMT Dept.

DATE: August 4, 2008

RE: Tuition and Funding by Erie County EMS

Erie Community College (ECC) and the Erie County Division of Emergency Medical Services (ECEMS) would like to advise all EMS providers that ECEMS has for the past many years paid the Erie Community College tuition for those individuals seeking training in the Basic EMT Original course, Intermediate Original or Recertification course or the Paramedic Recertification course.

A fiscal "Perfect Storm" has surfaced that will have a negative impact on the ability of this financial arrangement to continue in the future. Three factors have merged and placed a financial burden on the ECEMS budget:

1. Relatively stagnant NYS funding reimbursement levels for the past 5-6 years.
2. Gradual increases in ECC tuition rates and fees.
3. ECEMS increased accountability to the Erie County Control board and Erie County Executive.

ECEMS can no longer continue to absorb the financial losses incurred above and so this situation requires immediate attention. This change will not affect the Basic EMT and Certified First Responder Training Programs offered directly by ECEMS.

The following agreement is being proposed for implementation in the Fall 2008 semester at ECC:

1. ECEMS will continue to fund tuition for eligible students attending ECC EMT programs equal to the level of the NYS funding reimbursement for students who successfully complete the course.
2. All students wishing to pursue Basic EMT or EMT Intermediate Original certification training through the ECEMS agreement will need to apply to the college through the ECC admissions office and contact the financial aid office at ECC to complete the Aid for Part-Time Students application (APTS). If qualified, eligible students may receive as much as \$80 per credit hour towards tuition, as long as funds remain available. Students should apply to the financial aid office ASAP.
3. If any balance in tuition remains, it will need to be paid by the student or their individual Fire Department or EMS agency.

Those eligible EMS providers wishing to pursue the recertification courses are not eligible for APTS. ECEMS will pay tuition for these courses to the level of the NYS reimbursement and any remaining balance will need to be paid by the student or their individual EMS agency.

Question regarding courses at Erie Community College should be directed to the EMT Department at 851-1781.

Question regarding courses sponsored by Erie County E.M.S. should be directed to the E.M.S. Office at 681-6070.