

**County of Lancaster
Request for ARPA Funding**

Organization Municipal Emergency Services Authority of Lancaster County (MESA) Date August 18, 2022

Submitted By J. Marc Hershey Authorized Signature 

Email Address:  Phone #: 

Please attach any supporting documentation for consideration. Submission should be in PDF Format.

<p>Project/Item Description</p>	<p>The region of Lancaster County served by Northwest EMS has acknowledged that the future of the organization and the provision of viable emergency medical response services is at risk. Northwest EMS has operated at a deficit over the past six years. The expected budget shortfall for 2022 is over \$500,000. Insolvency is likely. Municipal leaders, meeting since 2018, have proposed the formation of an Administrative Authority to provide EMS services. The requested ARPA funding will allow for necessary bridge funding to allow for the formal creation of the Authority and for the operations of the Authority to service the region to commence.</p>
<p>Clearly state the amount being requested. What is the total cost? How was the cost derived?</p>	<p>The amount of funding requested is \$375,000. Through 2024, the estimated total cost for the planning, formal creation, start-up, and transition to Authority operations is \$2,495,000. The request is for 15% of the estimated costs to get through the formation of the regional administrative authority and transition to the new multi-municipal entity being fully operational.</p>
<p>Which County ARPA Community-wide Benefit(s) does the project meet?</p>	<p>Public Safety / EMS</p>
<p>Briefly explain how the project meets the County's guidelines.</p>	<p>The request for funds satisfies the following county criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) Meets an eligible objective of ARPA in the area of Public Safety (specifically EMS); (B) Is a one-time funding request; (C) Does not request additional ongoing funding and will have sustainable funding in place after 12/31/2024; (D) Is the "last in" funding to assist with the transition for the regional initiative; (E) Initiative is now – and will be – reliant on local funding for current planning and future operations; (F) Will not be used for administrative, interest, or other fees.
<p>Why should this project be a priority and how will it help the County? Also, if this application is for more than one project, please identify each one, provide information and rank them in order of your priority.</p>	<p>The funding crisis facing EMS providers is not limited to this region of Lancaster County. Similarly, municipalities and regions across the Commonwealth are faced with the same funding and operational dilemma. Viable options to address this crisis are limited. Regional leaders have been discussing and studying this matter for well over two years and believe the proposed multi-municipal administrative authority solution could serve as a model for other jurisdictions to replicate. MESA is documenting their planning efforts and general process and will be in a position to both share general lessons learned and provide specific technical assistance to any other municipalities wishing to consider this approach to a long-term solution for emergency services.</p> <p>This is the only request being made in support of this regional EMS initiative.</p>

<p>Will this project require ongoing expense (maintenance, updates) or frequent replacement? Are expenses already being incurred, if so, can they be reduced through this project?</p>	<p>The proposed project will not require ongoing county support. Once the regional start-up has worked through the multi-municipal planning process, formal Authority creation through the PA Department of State, and the overall work to transition operations to the new entity, the regional administrative authority, to be known as MESA, will be well-positioned to be a self-funded and sustainable organization.</p>
<p>Project Timeline – start to finish, and when funding will be needed.</p>	<p>The regional work to form the Authority is underway. Funds are requested as soon as they are approved for ongoing expenses. The Authority Timeline (see Exhibit A) estimates the Authority Board to be in place by the first quarter of 2023 with the Authority being fully operational and providing services by Fall 2023. The requested ARPA Funds will be expended by June 2024.</p>
<p>Are other organizations part of this project? If yes, please list them and their role, including funding. If not, explain why.</p>	<p>Overall, there are 12 municipalities in the region that have passed Resolutions indicating interest in becoming a founding member of, or otherwise engaging with, the proposed Authority. 11 of those municipalities are in Lancaster County, one is in Dauphin County (see Exhibit B).</p> <p>Elizabethtown Borough is submitting this funding request on behalf of the 11 Lancaster County municipalities involved in this initiative.</p> <p>Depending on the timing of a funding award, the ARPA funds can be issued either directly to MESA (if they have been formally incorporated by that date) or to Elizabethtown Borough who will hold the funds and pass them through to MESA upon the Authority’s incorporation.</p>
<p>ARPA Committee Comments</p>	
<p>ARPA Committee Recommendation</p>	
<p>Funding Amount Recommended (if recommended for approval)</p>	<p>\$</p>