**Upstate Institute Fellow is Emily Hazen**

**NYSARH Upstate Institute Project Description**

1. **Project**

What are the problems with financing for rural EMS/ambulance agencies in NYS? How are rural EMS/ambulance agencies financed in other states? What solutions have been tried to improve the financial stability of rural EMS/ambulance agencies? Have any of these efforts been effective?

EMS/ambulance agencies in NYS are a patchwork of private, for-profit companies, private non-profit all or mostly volunteer agencies, local fire departments (paid, volunteer and hybrid) and municipally operated departments. Each type has different rules and challenges, but all are struggling financially in rural communities.

This research project will have three parts:

* Understanding the finance models

Initially, the Fellow who selects this opportunity will need to take a deep dive into medical insurance policies and payment structures for rural EMS/

ambulance services operating in NYS. It will also be important to understand the costs involved in operating an EMS/ambulance service.

* Researching alternative approaches

This phase will involve outreach to officials in other State Departments of Health, and contacts with national associations such as National Association of State EMS Officials (nasemso.org), National EMS Management Association (nemsma.org), National Academy of Ambulance Compliance (ambulancecompliance.com), American Ambulance Association (ambulance.org). In New York there is the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association (NYSVARA) and the United New York Ambulance Network (UNYAN) for proprietary ambulances.

* Writing a Summary of Findings & Recommendations

The final part of the project will include summarizing the information learned during the first two phases, doing some analysis and developing recommendations for how NYS could change policies and payment structures to better support rural EMS/ambulance agencies.

1. **Impact**

The goal of this research is to identify one or two strategies that could be implemented in NYS to help rural EMS/ ambulance agencies survive. This project will result in a Report that will be shared with NYS elected officials by NYSARH to help them craft new legislation for the 2022 legislative session.