On Thursday 5/20/21 at 3:00 PM there will be a webinar to introduce the NY EMS Assessment program to independent volunteer and not-for-profit member organizations of NYSVARA. The webinar will be hosted by Sellers-Dorsey, a leading advisor to healthcare provider organizations, and will explain a proposed program supported by NYSVARA and the United New York Ambulance Network (UNYAN) to increase NYS Medicaid reimbursements.

There will be time reserved for a Question and Answer portion and can also gauge if another, more detailed webinar or one-on-one conversations with members will be most helpful to encourage their sign-on to the program.

A one pager that introduces the need for and basic mechanisms of the proposed NY EMS Assessment is shown below.

We hope you will join the webinar. Log-in information is below.

**Microsoft Teams meeting**

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 267-277-3998,,919386844# United States, Philadelphia

Phone Conference ID: 919 386 844#
Statewide Ambulance Assessment Program

This information has been prepared for the New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association (NYSVARA) by The United New York Ambulance Network (UNYAN)

What is this program?

- EMS providers experience low reimbursement from Medicaid, typically covering only 65% of their cost per transport. While the New York Department of Health (DOH) increased rates for EMS services in 2018, Medicaid rates remain a fraction of what Medicare pays for comparable services.
- UNYAN is proposing a new way to increase Medicaid reimbursement through a statewide ambulance provider assessment program.
- Federal law allows states to collect an assessment (sometimes referred to as a tax) from private providers, match those funds with federal dollars, and then make higher Medicaid payments back to the providers who paid the assessment.
- Assessment programs like this have been successfully implemented for EMS providers in nine states. Similar programs already exist in New York for hospitals and nursing facilities.
- All private (nongovernment/ nonmunicipal) providers that are licensed Medicaid providers and bill third party payers are eligible to participate in this program.
- This program will generate tens of millions of dollars in increased federal reimbursement for private providers.

How will this program work?

- UNYAN is crafting legislation that will authorize DOH to collect an assessment from every private and non-governmental volunteer ambulance provider across New York.
- DOH will use the new state funds from the assessment to match federal Medicaid dollars. In New York, that means more than a dollar in federal money for every state dollar spent on Medicaid services.
- DOH will make increased Medicaid payments to ambulance providers. While this will not change the Medicaid fee schedule, it will mean increased payments for almost all providers.
- On average, the new increased payments will exceed the amount of the assessment resulting in a net gain for providers.
- The proposed program will be created in conjunction with DOH, the New York Legislature, UNYAN, and CMS, with DOH having final authority over program operation and design.