

Emergency Medical Services

Not all healthcare takes place inside doctors' offices, hospitals or health centers. When a community member needs care as fast as possible, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers are the first to respond, providing critical care at the scene, in the back of an ambulance, or even aboard a rescue boat, helicopter, or other emergency vehicle.

Because of their role on the front line of healthcare, EMS operations require a great deal of planning to ensure consistency, quality and seamless cooperation with local hospitals, 911 centers and other agencies. In the North Country, FDRHPO assists with this planning and facilitation through its partnership with the region's **EMS Program Agency**.

As one of 16 program agencies across New York State, the FDRHPO EMS Program Agency oversees operations of close to 200 EMS organizations in an eight-county region in Northern New York, including the counties of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington — most of which are staffed by volunteers from their communities.

For all of these EMS organizations, the program agency provides...

Continuous Quality Improvement
Policy & Regulatory Guidance
EMS Training & Credentialing
EMS Recruitment & Educational Outreach
Pre-hospital Coordination
Technical Support

....and more!



Our latest initiatives include:



Ensure all EMS agencies have access to electronic medical records



Improve pre-hospital coordination between EMS agencies, hospitals, and 911 dispatch centers



Develop & maintain a learning management system to assist EMS providers in maintaining their certification



Maintain an "Opioid Overdose Center" offering Narcan to all first responder agencies. Partners with MATTERS Program to provide behavioral health and substance abuse and overdose resources to regional organizations and emergency departments.

Advocate for a stronger, more sustainable EMS system



Through the guidance of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council (REMSCO) and the Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC), the program agency also works with educational institutions, 911 centers, hospital emergency departments, law enforcement officials and other stakeholders to ensure the entire EMS system runs smoothly. These two regulatory bodies are comprised of regional experts who meet quarterly to discuss current policies and procedures.

In addition to all this, the FDRHPO EMS Program Agency has assisted North Country REMSCO with an annual educational EMS conference in the region for over 25 years.

Commitment to Providers...

The Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization's EMS Program Agency is committed to delivering ongoing medical education (CME) to all providers across our eight-county region. We offer multiple opportunities each year for providers to earn CME credits, including our annual Fort Drum EMS Education Day, the fall EMS Education Day in Saranac Lake, and regular additions of educational content on our Learning Management Site.

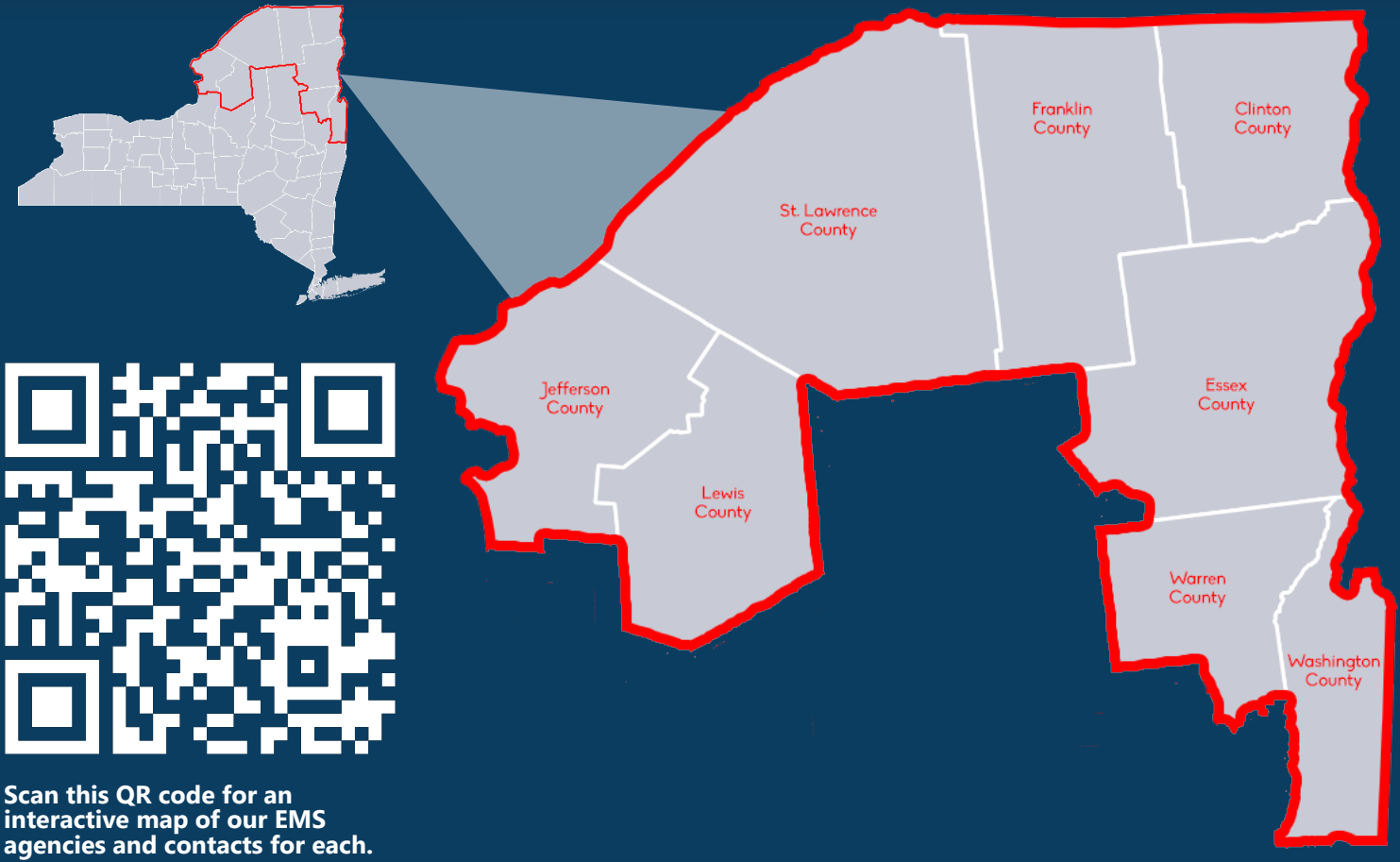
In addition to CME offerings for EMS providers, we also offer community courses such as Stop the Bleed and CPR/First Aid upon request.

To further enhance care quality, the program agency has launched a Continuing Quality Improvement (CQI) Initiative. This initiative aims to provide educational feedback to agencies and providers, helping to improve documentation practices and overall patient care.

Meet our EMS Providers...



Our EMS Agencies



Until merging with Mountain Lakes EMS Program Agency in July 2022, the FDRHPO EMS Program Agency provided oversight and support to the three counties of Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence. After the merger, its footprint expanded to eight counties, more than doubling the number of agencies in its coverage area. Here's how it breaks down:

Clinton County — 22	Lewis County — 7
Essex County — 17	St. Lawrence County — 36
Franklin County — 21	Warren County — 20
Jefferson County — 33	Washington County — 19