The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have issued the Health Care Innovation Awards, and NASEMSO is pleased that there are three EMS awards for a combined total of over $13 million! This was an extremely competitive process considering there were 3,000 applications and only 166 funded, and EMS applications were competing with others from the entire health care continuum. For more information on the grant program and the process, go to http://innovations.cms.gov/initiatives/Innovation-Awards/Fact-Sheet-Selection-Process.html. Congratulations to the states of Washington, Nevada, and Colorado for being home to the award recipients.

The EMS Projects are:

**PROSSER PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT**
**Project Title:** “Prosser Washington Community Paramedics Program”
**Geographic Reach:** Washington
**Funding Amount:** $1,470,017
**Estimated 3-Year Savings:** $1,855,400
**Summary:** Prosser Public Hospital District, serving a large, rural area in Washington State, is receiving an award for a program through which physicians can send a community paramedic (CP) to visit a patient of concern, providing in-home medical monitoring, follow-ups, basic lab work, and patient education. The area has high rates of obesity, high cholesterol, diabetes, heart attacks/coronary disease, and angina/stroke. Emergency room visits and readmissions are high and preventive care is limited, with poor follow-up care for chronic illnesses and frequent missed appointments. By expanding the role of the emergency medical services, CPs can increase access to primary and preventive care, provide wellness interventions, decrease emergency room utilization, and improve outcomes.

Over a three-year period, Prosser Public Hospital District’s program will train an estimated 10 workers including community

**REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**
**Project Title:** "REMSA Community Health Early Intervention Team (CHIT)"


**Geographic Reach:** Nevada  
**Estimated 3-Year Savings:** $10,500,000  
**Funding Amount:** $9,872,988  
**Summary:** The Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority of Reno, Nevada, a non-profit provider of ground and air ambulance services, in partnership with Renown Medical Group, the University of Nevada-Reno School of Community Health Sciences, the Washoe County Health District, and the State of Nevada Office of Emergency Medical Services, is receiving an award to create a Community Health Early Intervention Team (CHIT) to respond to lower acuity and chronic disease situations in urban, suburban, and rural areas of Washoe County Nevada. CHIT is designed to reduce unnecessary ambulance responses, as well as hospital admissions and readmissions, while improving the patients' health care. A central component to the success of CHIT is the adoption of a new non-emergency phone number to provide an alternative pathway to care for patients with lower acuity problems. Goals of this initiative include reductions in non-urgent emergency department visits, unreimbursed emergency department costs, hospital admissions, and hospital readmissions, as well as decreased hospital stays, fewer ambulance transports, and improved overall health care and continuity of care.

Over a three-year period, the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority's program will train an estimated 22 workers and create an estimated 22 jobs. The new workforce will include community paramedics, communication specialists, an educator, continuous quality improvement coordinators, an outreach coordinator, an information technology specialist, a statistician, an administrative support specialist, and a project director.

**UPPER SAN JUAN HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT**

**Project Title:** “Southwest Colorado cardiac and stroke care”  
**Geographic Reach:** Colorado  
**Funding Amount:** $1,724,581  
**Estimated 3-Year Savings:** $8.1 million  
**Summary:** The Upper San Juan Health Service District is receiving an award to expand access to specialists and improve the quality of acute care in rural and remote areas of southwestern Colorado. Their care delivery model will offer cardiovascular early detection and wellness programs, implement a telemedicine acute stroke care program, use telemedicine and remote diagnostics for cardiologist consultations, and
upgrade and retrain its Emergency Medical Services Division (EMS) to manage urgent care transports and in-home follow-up patient care for over 3400 patients in medically underserved areas in Southwest Colorado. The program will provide access to cardiologists and neurologists and is expected to reduce cardiovascular risk, improve patient outcomes, create healthier communities, and reduce health care costs with estimated savings of approximately $8.1 million.

Over the three-year period, the Upper San Juan Health Service District’s program will train an estimated 25 paramedics and telehealth clinicians and create 13 new jobs. These workers will provide a new type of clinical team that will improve care outcomes for rural cardiovascular patients.