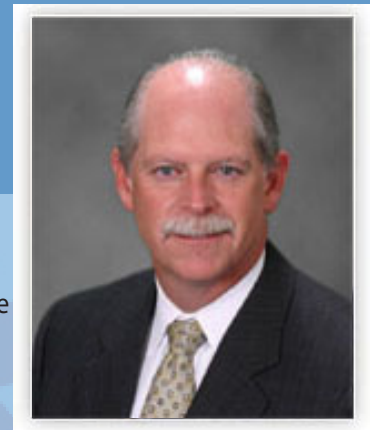




**National Registry of  
Emergency Medical Technicians®**  
THE NATION'S EMS CERTIFICATION™

# Uniting the National EMS Community

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



**David Perse, MD, FACEP**  
Physician Director of EMS,  
City of Houston  
Fire Department  
Houston, Texas

## A Letter from the Chairman of the Board

Since its founding in 1970, the NREMT has acted with a clear purpose: to serve as the nation's EMS certification. Forty-five years later, the organization remains as dedicated as ever to that mission and we continue working to serve EMS providers at a national level. In 2015, we worked harder than ever.

Part of the NREMT's work is to ensure that EMS providers are properly prepared to practice. We hold EMS providers to exacting standards to promote their safety and the safety of the communities in which they practice. To that end, the NREMT has worked to implement the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP)—a new set of guidelines for the recertification process. The rollout of the NCCP continued throughout 2015, and by year-end, 12 states were committed to the program.

The NREMT also continued in 2015 to develop and prepare for implementation of the Paramedic Portfolio and Scenario Exam (formerly the Psychomotor Competency Portfolio project). Likewise part of our efforts to ensure that EMS providers are prepared to safely and effectively practice, the Paramedic Portfolio and Scenario Exam will bring a greater focus on skills and scenarios to the paramedic certification process. The changes will affect new paramedic students beginning in the second half of 2016, and implementation will continue in 2017.

But while looking to the future of certification, we have not neglected the present: Over 95,000 Nationally Certified providers were successfully recertified

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in 2015. That's thousands more than the NREMT's previous record—set in just 2014. There were more exams this year, too: In conjunction with Pearson VUE, the NREMT administered more than 142,000 computer-based tests as part of the National Certification process.

And as a continued effort to support these and all EMS providers and to improve the practice of EMS nationally, the NREMT laid the groundwork for the support of an interstate compact that will provide new conveniences and benefits to states and providers. REPLICA, or the EMS Compact, allows for greater mobility for EMS providers between states by providing a "privilege to practice"—EMTs or Paramedics licensed in one EMS Compact state can practice in any EMS Compact state.

The EMS Compact aligns with the NREMT's goal to support and serve the entire nation of EMS providers, and we are excited to help develop and expand the EMS Compact. The NREMT has strategically committed staff, funds and other resources to support this endeavor.

In closing, I would like to thank the Executive Director and staff of the NREMT for their hard work and our dedicated Board of Directors for their unwavering support of the NREMT's mission. I want to thank the many committed volunteers who support our item writing and standard setting processes, which help guide the NREMT and the profession.

Thank you for a successful year in 2015; here's to another!

## A Letter from the Executive Director



**Severo Rodriguez, PhD, NRP**  
*Executive Director*

In 2015, the NREMT celebrated its 45th anniversary serving as the nation's certification for emergency medical services professionals. In that time, the NREMT has engaged with EMS stakeholders nationwide through countless meetings, conferences, presentations and publications. Today, as we build on a legacy of success, we are more committed than ever to engaging with our stakeholders.

***For example: We have administered more than 2.5 million cognitive examinations over our history, and in 2015, we administered more than in any single year before. More than 142,000 cognitive examinations were administered, a new record for certification, expanding the opportunities of national certification to even more EMS professionals.***

While initial certification is crucial, however, it is not enough to certify professionals once. To properly advocate our mission of public safety through national certification, the NREMT must work with stakeholders to maintain their certification. And 2015 was a banner year for this as well: More than 95,000 EMS professionals completed recertification.

And we are committed to improving our processes to make future years even more successful. Adoption of the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP), our updated recertification process, expanded in 2015, with 12 states utilizing the new standard by year's end. Adoption of the NCCP model will continue to expand as we move forward.

In all areas, the continued growth of the NREMT is a reflection of strong leadership and unwavering commitment to our goal of serving the public through national certification. The NREMT exists to provide an attestation of the competence of Nationally Certified EMS providers and is proud to commit its resources and expertise in this capacity to ensure the care and protection of the public.

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Houston, TX

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## Transition to the National EMS Standards: Update

It has been five years since NREMT worked with the NASEMSO Implementation Team to plan transition processes to the four levels of EMS providers identified in the 2009 National EMS Educational Standards and Scope of Practice documents. The EMT-Basic to EMT transition process is complete and by September 30, 2016, First Responder to EMR registrants will complete their transition. Roughly half of the EMT-Intermediate-85s and EMT-Paramedics completed transition by March 31, 2016, and the remaining EMT-Intermediate-85s and EMT-Paramedics will have until March 31, 2017 to complete their transition (see [https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/transition\\_policy.asp](https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/transition_policy.asp)). That leaves only the EMT-Intermediate-99 level to begin transitioning by March 31, 2018.

Please note that EMT-Intermediate-99s whose NREMT certifications expire on March 31, 2018 or March 31, 2019 must complete the transition course and pass the NREMT Paramedic cognitive examination prior to their 2018/2019 expiration date. Those who do not complete the approved transition process from EMT-Intermediate-99 to Paramedic will be issued National EMS Certification as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (NRAEMT) upon reaching their expiration date of March 31, 2018 or 2019 (refer to Transition Policy) as long as they have submitted an acceptable recertification application.

<b>CERTIFICATION TRANSITION</b>	<b>DATE DUE</b>
<del>First Responder to EMR</del>	<del>Sept. 30, 2015/2016</del>
<del>EMT-Basic to EMT</del>	<del>Mar. 31, 2015/2016</del>
<b>COMPLETE</b>	
Intermediate/85 to AEMT	Mar. 31, 2016/2017
Intermediate/99 to Paramedic	Mar. 31, 2018/2019
EMT-Paramedic to Paramedic	Mar. 31, 2016/2017

COMMUNITY NREMT TEAM TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE LIVES

## Paramedic Portfolio and Scenario Exam

The Paramedic Portfolio and Scenario Exam, formerly known as Psychomotor Competency Portfolio (PPCP) project developed as a result of requiring graduation from a CAAHEP-accredited paramedic program or one that holds a current LoR from the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP) for courses that commenced on or after January 1, 2013. Recognizing the rigorous, consistent review of paramedic programs through the accreditation process, the NREMT began to investigate revision of our paramedic psychomotor examination.

The NREMT focused on a more scenario-based examination that could also incorporate essential attributes of Team Leadership and Team Membership, thus better reflecting actual out-of-hospital care as

opposed to continuing to test 12 isolated skills. The NREMT developed a portfolio of vital skills that each paramedic student must master in order to qualify for the National Registry Paramedic (NRP) Certification examination. Each student's portfolio is tracked by the program throughout the formative and summative phases of education in the classroom, laboratory, clinical, and field internship settings. All students that begin their paramedic program on or after August 1, 2016 are required to complete a portfolio that becomes a part of the student's permanent educational file and is a prerequisite to seeking NRP Certification.

The NREMT anticipates incorporating the scenario-based examination in several phases, with Phase 1 beginning on January 1, 2017. In this first phase, a total of six (6) skills will be tested, five (5) of which are currently evaluated in the NRP Psychomotor examination. One Integrated Out-of-hospital Scenario will also be tested and it could reflect either a pediatric, geriatric, or adult patient. A trained paramedic partner will be supplied as part of the examination team and will serve as the candidate's professional partner. Each candidate will be evaluated in his/her ability to manage a call, direct all personnel and lead the team on scene, effectively communicate, and maintain professionalism throughout the call.



*continued on page 7*

## Paramedic Portfolio and Scenario Exam

The six (6) skills that will comprise the National Registry Paramedic Psychomotor examination effective January 1, 2017, are as follows:

- 1. Patient Assessment – Trauma***
- 2. Dynamic Cardiology***
- 3. Static Cardiology***
- 4. Oral Station – Case A***
- 5. Oral Station – Case B***
- 6. Integrated Out-of-hospital Scenario***

We have partnered with the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) to help coordinate 22 Regional Scenario Development Workshops for educators throughout this year. During these workshops, educators will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience developing formative and summative scenarios for use in their classrooms. It is our hope that these workshops will help educators better prepare their students to function as Paramedics.

Please visit the Paramedic Portfolio and Scenario Exam Landing page on [www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org) for more information about student portfolios, formative and summative scenarios for use in the classroom, and information on how the Integrated Out-of-hospital Scenario will be incorporated into the NRP Psychomotor examination. Students and educational programs are welcome to use these documents for non-commercial purposes of educational or scientific advancement.



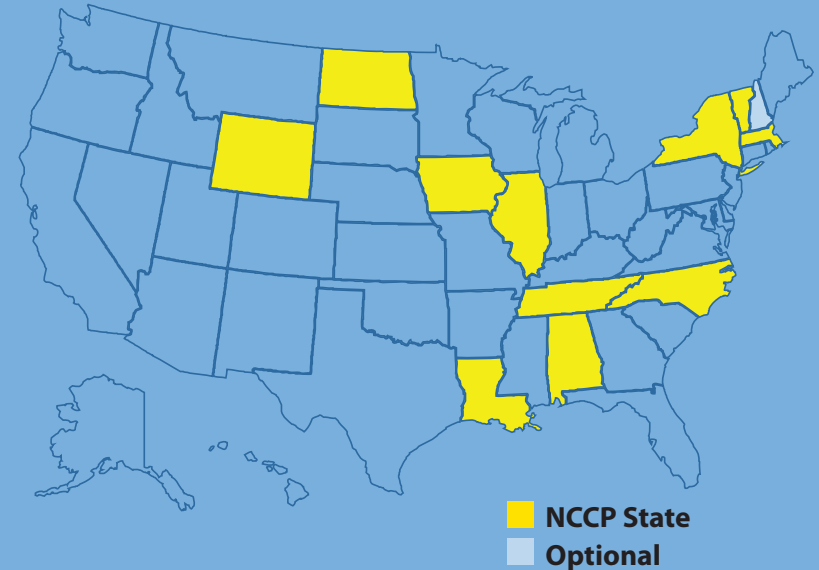
### **NCCP *National Continued Competency Program***

In 2012, the NREMT introduced a new recertification model: the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP). Constructed using methodology similar to that of the American Board of Medical Specialty requirements, the NCCP model streamlines the recertification process into three strategic categories of continuing education: National, Local and Individual.

The NCCP improves on the previous model by allowing a platform for evidence-based medicine to reach EMS professionals nationwide. Additionally, state and local agencies are given more control under the NCCP model with new freedom to dictate a portion of the recertification requirements.

Since implementation began in 2012, the NCCP has proven a success. By the end of 2015, the new model had been adopted in 12 states, and implementation will continue to expand quickly in the future. States using the NCCP model in 2015 include: Alabama, Iowa, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont and Wyoming.

### **STATE UTILIZATION OF NCCP**



*\* Please contact your state EMS office for detailed state requirements. Information current as of December 1, 2015*

For more on the NCCP recertification model, please visit:  
[https://www.nremt.org/nremt/EMTServices/nccp\\_info.asp](https://www.nremt.org/nremt/EMTServices/nccp_info.asp)



## NREMT To Support The National EMS Compact Project

The NREMT is excited to announce a commitment to supporting REPLICA, the Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact project.

Every day, EMS practitioners cross state lines while caring for patients, responding to disasters, or performing other work duties. These routine occurrences present an assortment of legal, regulatory and compliance challenges. Each state has laws protecting and regulating the EMS profession, so before an individual can practice—or in most states, even utilize titles such as EMT or Paramedic—the individual must complete the credentialing or license process specific to that state.

As a result, many of the nation's EMS professionals maintain licenses and certifications in multiple states. Not only is this a cumbersome (and often expensive) process, this approach only works for individuals that anticipate far in advance the potential need for them to utilize their EMS profession in a secondary state. However, EMS personnel often encounter the need to practice across state lines with little to no advanced notice. REPLICA provides a mechanism for EMS practitioners to easily overcome this barrier. When a state signs on to the EMS Compact—by the passage of a law adopting REPLICA—EMTs or Paramedics that are licensed/certified in that state are extended a privilege to practice in the other Compact states.



In addition, the Compact also provides the legal framework for the State's EMS regulatory agency to share enforcement actions or disciplinary actions taken with other Compact states.

Currently, states rely primarily on self-disclosure of disciplinary actions when new or renewal applications are submitted. A single, reliable database of these reports does not currently exist.

As an extension of the NREMT's mission to protect the public and nation through national EMS certification, the NREMT will be providing this database, as well as the infrastructure and information technology solutions that are vital to the EMS Compact. In addition to serving as a repository for state officials to identify individuals whose license/certification has been revoked, suspended or restricted, the database will also provide a central location for the management of credential, licensure and privilege to practice information.

REPLICA was developed jointly between Council of State Government's National Center for Interstate Compact, The National Association of State EMS Officials, and a drafting team of subject matter experts. The compact was also reviewed and vetted extensively through a larger advisory committee, including the NREMT.

## Top 10 FAQ's

### 1 **How long does it take to process paperwork submitted for applications?**

- Background issues: 30 business days
- ADA Accommodations: 30-45 business days
- Incomplete Applications for cognitive exams: 5-7 business days
- Paper Recertification Applications: 2-4 weeks
- Incomplete Paper Recertification Applications: 2-3 business days
- Audit Documents: 10 business days
- Incomplete Audit Documents: 5 business days

All times are contingent on all necessary documents being submitted and are subject to change based on submission volume.

### 2 **What are my deadlines to test?**

- Courses are valid for 2 years.
  - For example if you completed a course on 05/18/2016 it will be valid to test with until 05/31/2018.
- Testing results for both the cognitive and psychomotor exams are valid for up to 1 year, provided all other requirements for certification are fulfilled.

For example:

- EMR/EMT cognitive exam passed 05/18/2016 is valid until 05/18/2017
  - EMR/EMT psychomotor exam passed 05/18/2016 is valid until 05/18/2017
  - AEMT/Paramedic cognitive exam passed 05/18/2016 is valid until 05/18/2017
  - AEMT /Paramedic psychomotor exam passed 05/18/2016 is valid until 05/18/2017
- Authorizations to Test (ATT) are valid for 90 days from date of issue.

### 3 **How do I submit an application for my 4th attempt and where do I submit my remedial training?**

To submit your 4th application, use the following steps:

- Log in to your NREMT account
- Go to the "CBT Candidate" link
- Click on "Create Initial Entry Application"
- Select your level as "EMT, AEMT or Paramedic" Check the box next to "I have read and understand" then click "Next"
- The next page shows an option to submit an "Express Application." Do not make any changes to the application and just click "Submit"

Once you have submitted the application it will be reviewed by one of the NREMT Certification Representatives who will then contact you via email requesting the necessary documentation. You can also email your documents into the Certification Department at [certification@nremt.org](mailto:certification@nremt.org) or fax the information to 614-396-2428

### 4 **Where can I find an EMR/ EMT psychomotor exam?**

EMR/EMT psychomotor exams need to be state approved. You should contact your state office for more information on completing a state approved psychomotor exam.

### 5 **Where can I find refresher courses/ continuing education?**

The NREMT accepts continuing education that has received official approval through your State EMS office and/or the Commission on Accreditation for Pre-hospital Continuing Education (CAPCE). Continuing Education can be completed with any state approved education program, including but not limited to community colleges, vocational schools, local EMS agencies, or online education providers. Contact your state office or visit the CAPCE website ([www.cecbems.org](http://www.cecbems.org)) for more information. Continuing education may be obtained through a variety of delivery methods including didactic sessions, practical drills, workshops, EMS conferences and distributive education.

**6** *How do I request inactive status?*

- Please select affiliate with agency.
- Select your state of licensure or residence.
- Then select “agency not listed” and answer yes to inactive.

To file inactive you must meet all recertification education requirements.

**7** *How long do I have to complete my transition?*

Any provider that expired in 2016, to include: First Responder, EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate 85 and EMT-Paramedic can no longer complete the transition process. If you are an EMT-Intermediate 85 or EMT-Paramedic that expires in 2017, you must complete the requirements by 3/31/2017. The transition period for EMT-Intermediate-99 providers ends in 2018/2019.

**8** *What if I did not transition?*

Consequences for not completing the transition course prior to your expiration date will result in a drop of your certification level. EMT-Basics will drop to EMR, EMT I-85 will drop to EMT, EMT I-99 will drop to Advanced EMT, EMT-Paramedic will drop to Advanced EMT and First Responders will lose certification status with the NREMT. Your certification will drop only if you have submitted an acceptable recertification application. If not, then you will lapse in certification and must then utilize the “lapsed certification process” to gain national certification.

Lapsed NREMT EMT I-85 providers that did not successfully transition, but completed a transition course that is equivalent to a full AEMT course, may challenge the AEMT cognitive and psychomotor exams for the next two years, as long as all other entry requirements are met. If you just completed a transition course not equal to a full AEMT course, you will need to complete an AEMT course to be eligible for that level certification.

**9** *My state just switched to NCCP. How does this affect me?*

Instead of the traditional 72-hour recertification model, education hours will now vary by provider certification level. For more information on distributive education (DE) and applying it toward your requirements, please review the NCCP brochures for the appropriate certification level.

	National Requirements	Local Requirements	Individual Requirements	Total Hours
<b>EMR</b>	8 (up to 3 DE)	4 (up to 3 DE)	4 (up to 4 DE)	16
<b>EMT</b>	20 (up to 7 DE)	10 (up to 7 DE)	10 (up to 10 DE)	40
<b>AEMT</b>	25 (up to 8 DE)	12.5 (up to 8 DE)	12.5 (up to 12.5 DE)	50
<b>NRP</b>	30 (up to 10 DE)	15 (up to 10 DE)	15 (up to 15 DE)	60

**10** *What if the hours I’ve entered have disappeared?*

It may look as though your hours have vanished, but they haven’t—they’re still there. You will just need to move the data to the new model. The process is simple:

- Click “My Certification” and then click “Manage Education”
- Click the “MOVE HOURS” button
- Select a course and, from the drop down list, select whether to apply the hours to your national, local or individual requirement. Repeat this step for each course.

**First Time Pass Rates by State for 2015**

**2015**

**National Average  
First Time Pass Rates**

EMT = 68%  
Paramedic = 78%

**2014**

**National Average  
First Time Pass Rates**

EMT = 67%  
Paramedic = 77%

**2013**

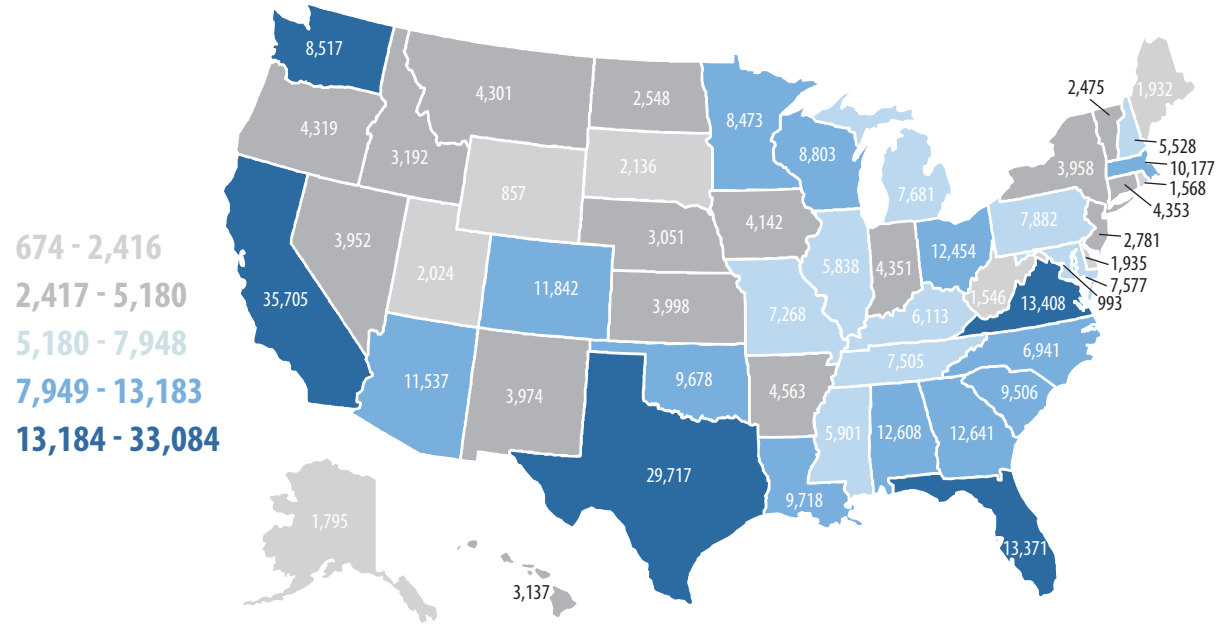
**National Average  
First Time Pass Rates**

EMT = 70%  
Paramedic = 73%

	<b>EMT</b>			<b>PARAMEDIC</b>		
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Alabama	62	59	60	68	73	76
Alaska	71	77	78	90	82	87
Arizona	68	66	73	82	83	82
Arkansas	68	62	69	50	56	68
California	70	69	72	81	82	84
Colorado	81	80	78	91	90	88
Connecticut	67	63	64	85	93	91
Delaware	70	63	56	100	92	67
District of Columbia	65	71	77	50	50	
Florida	67	64	69	68	76	65
Georgia	70	69	71	69	69	75
Hawaii	90	84	94	100	100	100
Idaho	71	73	69	86	91	100
Illinois	71	65	69	68	65	76
Indiana	69	74	66	65	64	73
Iowa	63	62	60	70	75	72
Kansas	63	61	64	82	87	78
Kentucky	56	57	57	53	58	68
Louisiana	61	67	69	56	72	71
Maine	68	72	63	75	78	89
Maryland	69	68	67	70	66	65
Massachusetts	52	52	56	77	67	71
Michigan	67	66	65	59	54	66
Minnesota	79	77	78	80	83	80
Mississippi	53	54	48	68	61	64
Missouri	65	61	61	66	66	68
Montana	78	76	79	91	88	88
Nebraska	71	70	68	79	88	82
Nevada	66	64	62	87	88	94
New Hampshire	67	68	70	98	94	85
New Jersey	71	75	80	78	80	96
New Mexico	61	68	64	88	88	89
New York	76	73	78	85	85	84
North Carolina	78	80	77	71	73	63
North Dakota	80	75	74	77	76	83
Ohio	72	71	68	74	72	67
Oklahoma	63	59	64	81	75	64
Oregon	79	78	78	83	87	88
Pennsylvania	78	60	64	65	69	75
Rhode Island	54	53	56	73	58	80
South Carolina	69	68	70	76	70	71
South Dakota	63	59	63	75	70	75
Tennessee	68	65	61	74	77	71
Texas	67	67	68	67	74	77
Utah	76	60	58	84	71	79
Vermont	71	66	73		100	
Virginia	63	66	69	78	78	82
Washington	81	82	82	89	97	96
West Virginia	55	47	55	53	54	56
Wisconsin	71	69	71	80	78	82
Wyoming	92	89	90	100	92	67

Numbers shown above are percentages.

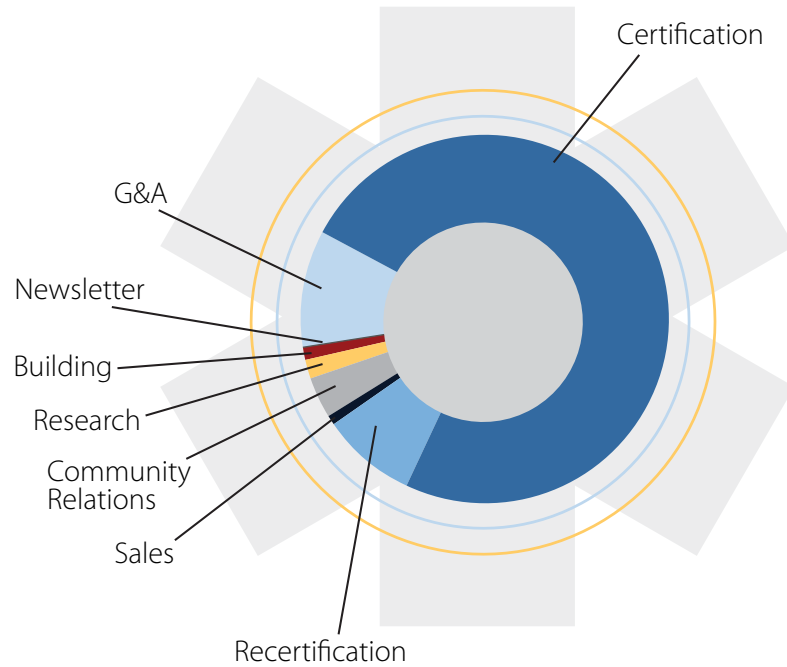
## Population of Nationally Registered EMS Personnel by State



UNITY  
TOGETHER US  
TEAM

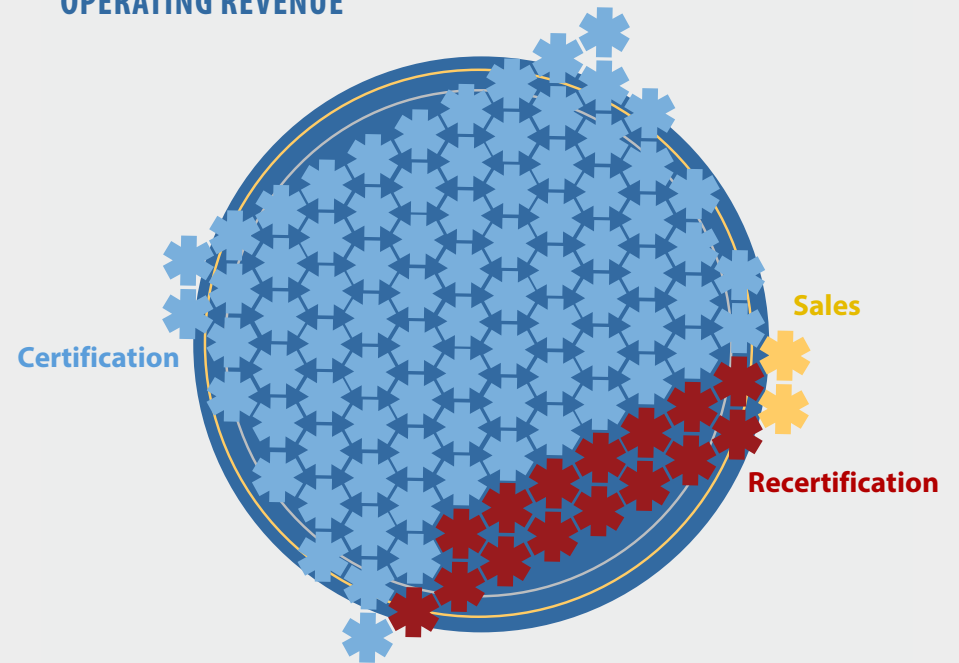
## Financial Information

### OPERATING EXPENSES



OPERATING EXPENSES	\$	%
Certification	\$ 10,199,419.00	74.25
Recertification	1,166,524.00	8.49
Sales	106,817.00	0.78
Community Relations	477,202.00	3.47
Research	226,605.00	1.65
Newsletter	15,066.00	0.11
Building	163,687.00	1.19
G&A	1,382,281.00	10.06
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 13,737,601.00</b>	

### OPERATING REVENUE



OPERATING REVENUE	\$	%
Certification	11,616,575.00	82.96
Recertification	2,143,417.00	15.31
Sales	242,466.00	1.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 14,002,458.00</b>	



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