



# COLORADO

Department of Public Health & Environment

## Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Branch Activity Report to the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council (SEMTAC)

This report is submitted as a record of key activities by the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Branch for the period of March 31, 2021 - June 30, 2021.

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### EMTS Branch Report

Donnie Woodyard, Branch Chief, [donnie.woodyard@state.co.us](mailto:donnie.woodyard@state.co.us)





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### National Updates

#### National Registry Updates:

- The National Registry is in the process of redesigning the Advanced-EMT and Paramedic examinations. The physical skills (psychomotor exam) will transition to an eligibility prerequisite that will be demonstrated during the education/training process. The revised cognitive examination will include new question types and a computer based examination is being created to better assess clinical decision making. The National Registry anticipates the revised examinations will be rolled out in 2023.
- Due to COVID-19, Distributed Education (DE) limits for recertification have been waived for all levels for the Oct 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022 recertification season.
- The 2022 Recertification Fee Schedule has been released. Effective January 1, 2022, the recertification fees are: EMT \$25; AEMT\$26; Paramedic\$32

EMS Compact - The EMS Compact remains fully operational, now with 22 participating states. Over 300,000 EMS personnel have a multi-state Privilege to Practice under the EMS Compact. The EMS Compact is finalizing the recruitment of a full-time Executive Director.

### Operations Section

Mike Bateman, Section Manager, [michael.bateman@state.co.us](mailto:michael.bateman@state.co.us)

Building on cross-training and increased efficiency developed last year, the Operations Section has maintained above average turnaround times and accuracy for application processing. EMS provider licensing continues to gain momentum, with over 800 licenses issued since Jan. 1. The Operations Section also developed a guidance document for out-of-state EMS providers deployed to Colorado to support wildfire operations. The guidance document is available at [coems.info](http://coems.info) or by email upon request.

### Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council (EMPAC)

With the passage of House Bill 21-1251 and its expected signing into law, all currently active Ketamine for Excited Delirium/Extreme Agitation waivers have been suspended. Waiver applications reviewed at the May 2021 EMPAC meeting are pending a final department decision. Non-Ketamine for Excited Delirium/Extreme Agitation waivers with an expiration date of May 10, 2021 or later and for which a completed renewal application was reviewed at the May 2021 EMPAC meeting will remain active until the department issues a final decision. The next EMPAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 9, 2021, starting at 10 a.m. at 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Bldg C, Room C1E and remotely via Zoom. The next Regional Medical Direction committee meeting will be held the same day immediately prior to the EMPAC meeting, from 8 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

### Path4EMS

The Path4EMS program has experienced a significant increase in utilization. There have been 19 new participants during the last quarter, which more than doubles the total number of EMS providers served. As the program enters its second full year, changes continue to be made concerning outreach methods and efforts, the delivery of program services and coordination with regional and state-wide wellness and resiliency efforts.





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### Funding Section

Eric Schmidt, Section Manager, [eric.schmidt@state.co.us](mailto:eric.schmidt@state.co.us)

#### Technical Assistance

At the request of local governments and in conjunction with the regional emergency medical and trauma services advisory councils (RETACs), staff members coordinate technical assistance services to local entities. There were no formal requests for technical assistance requested this quarter. The department has performed 21 local EMTS system assessments since the program began. Copies of the final reports with recommendations are available from the department.

#### CREATE

The Colorado Rural Health Center continues to administer the Colorado Resource for EMS and Trauma Education (CREATE) grant program. A new program manager started in January when the outgoing program manager retired. There was one financial waiver request submitted for review during the quarter that was not approved. The Expert Review Committee evaluated ten applications requesting \$68,111 in funding for ten courses. Seven courses were approved with \$23,312 awarded.

#### Provider Grants and System Improvement Funding Requests

The final purchase order outstanding for the fiscal year 2021 funding program was signed by the applicant and executed in April. Fifty six projects have been completed so far this year and \$61,054 has been reverted. A portion of the reversions was received in May sufficient to make one late award of \$15,291 to help fund an EMTS equipment project.

The legislature authorized approximately \$6.1 million for the funding program in fiscal year 2022. Five hundred thousand dollars was allocated for the CREATE educational grant program, \$359,700 for regional medical direction projects, \$304,146 for supplemental RETAC funding, \$65,000 to provide support for the new trauma registry software, \$300,000 in temporary funding for the peer assistance program and \$150,000 was set-aside for emergency grants. An additional \$565,439 was held back due to reduced revenue projections. Revenues have not yet recovered even though the restrictions affecting the ability to register vehicles have been relaxed for more than six months. Reviews for system improvement projects and the last two RETAC provider grant reviews for the fiscal year 2022 EMTS Funding program were completed in April. SEMTAC provider grant reviews were completed in May. Seventy-two funding applications were submitted for the fiscal year 2022 funding program; 11 regional medical direction projects, two system improvement projects and 59 provider grants. In June, the department awarded \$3,423,610 for provider grants and \$427,700 for system improvement funding for 71 projects. The complete list of awards is posted on our [website](#).

#### Emergency Grants

There were no emergency grant requests received in the last quarter.

### Trauma Section

Martin Duffy, Section Manager, [martin.duffy@state.co.us](mailto:martin.duffy@state.co.us)

#### Trauma Reviews/Designations

The trauma section completed one level II, three level IIIs and one level V review in the second quarter of 2021. These reviews were successfully completed on a remote platform.





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The remote platform necessitated a higher level of technical assistance to prepare the facility and review team.

### Trauma Consultations and Outreach Visits

The trauma section provided technical assistance to a wide range of stakeholders in Q2 of 2021. Staff facilitated registry webinars providing education on data submission and the ImageTrend platform. Staff time dedicated to designation review preparation quadrupled in this quarter as the section continued designation reviews in a remote platform. The trauma section provided ongoing technical assistance to 3 facilities that are on a Plan of Correction and 3 facilities pursuing designation or increasing their level of designation.

### Designation Review Committee (DRC)

The DRC meeting in April was held remotely. The DRC considered one facility and made a recommendation on their designation.

### Statewide Trauma Advisory Committee (STAC)

The STAC meeting in April was held remotely. The STAC discussed non-designated facility integration into a license management system provided by ImageTrend. This would allow the Department to effectively communicate and gather trauma data from these facilities.

### Data Section

Amber Viitanen, EMTS Data Section Manager, [amber.viitanen@state.co.us](mailto:amber.viitanen@state.co.us)

The data team continues to provide technical assistance and subject matter expertise to both internal and external stakeholders. During 2021 Q2, the team worked with providers to identify areas for improvement on the state EMS run form. The team led discussions with regional coordinators about future projects using the state's syndromic surveillance tool, Biospatial, as well as collaborated on various approaches to studying air ambulance transports across the state. Finally, the team provided guidance across the branch in appropriate data collection, analysis, and dissemination of trauma registry data, scope of practice waiver data, EMS personnel data, and organizational profile data.

The team presented at the EMPAC meeting on RSI waiver data, and produced over 20 reports at the request of various stakeholders.

### EMTS Investigations

Shelley Sanderman, HFEMSD Enforcement, [shelley.sanderman@state.co.us](mailto:shelley.sanderman@state.co.us)

In the fourth quarter of 2020 and the first and second of 2021, the EMTS Investigations Team saw a steady increase as Colorado began to open back up from COVID-19 as vaccinations became more available and people began returning to work and entering the community again. In the first and second quarters of 2021, approximately 56 CORA requests have been processed, after closing the 4th quarter of 2020 with approximately 65 CORA requests. The Team has issued 4 certification suspensions, is currently investigating 4 complaints related to the administration of ketamine. The





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Team has successfully closed out approximately 20 investigations of certified providers and is actively working on approximately 20 complaints. Additionally, in the second quarter of 2021 alone, the Team has received, reviewed, and processed approximately 126 arrest reports.

### **Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Councils (RETACs)**

Matthew Paswaters, Coordinator, [mattew.paswaters@state.co.us](mailto:mattew.paswaters@state.co.us)

Third quarter activity reports and financial statements for FY21 were submitted by all 11 RETACs. The most recent quarterly RETAC forum was held June 2-3 in Breckenridge. The next RETAC forum is Sept. 1-2 in Crested Butte. SEMTAC members are encouraged to attend RETAC forum meetings.

### **Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC)**

Stacey Quesada, EMSC Program Manager, [stacey.quesada@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:stacey.quesada@cuanschutz.edu)

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program continues work to expand and improve the capacity for pediatric emergency care across Colorado.

#### **EMS for Children Survey**

During the first quarter of 2021, EMSC administered the annual EMS for Children survey to all licensed transport agencies and a subset of non-transport EMS agencies. Sixty-seven percent of the agencies completed the survey. The survey asked agencies if they have an individual(s) designated to coordinate pediatric emergency care and if/how they verify providers' competency with pediatric-specific equipment. Data from the survey will be shared once it is available.

#### **Colorado Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (COPECC)**

EMSC facilitated three monthly COPECC steering committee meetings during this quarter. The group drafted a role description for Colorado prehospital pediatric emergency care coordinators (PECCs) and began work to increase Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP) instructors and courses across the state.

#### **Colorado Pediatric Preparedness for the Emergency Room (COPPER)**

EMSC conducted three COPPER steering committee meetings during this quarter. EMSC, with the help of the steering committee, completed work on the COPPER website, checklist, application, and resource library. The COPPER program was officially launched with six pilot sites on March 30th. Pilot sites will use COPPER resources to address their pediatric readiness over the coming months. Progress at these sites will be reported in the next branch report.

#### **National Pediatric Readiness Assessment (NPRA)**

EMSC helped Colorado participate as one of two states in the pilot of the 2020-21 NPRA. The NPRA was administered to all Colorado emergency departments in late 2020. Colorado's results from the NPRA have been posted on the [EMSC website](#).





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### Pediatric Care Committee (PCC)

EMSC hosted the quarterly PCC meeting on January 13th. At the meeting, new bylaws were approved and adopted by the committee. The new bylaws can be found [here](#).

Additional information is available on the [EMSC website](#).

### Communications

Curtis Nations, Communications Program Coordinator, [curtis.nations@state.co.us](mailto:curtis.nations@state.co.us)

Public access in the emergency medical services setting is defined as the ability of an individual to secure prompt and appropriate emergency medical care. All counties in the state have E911 telephone services. The existing Colorado digital trunked radio system (DTRS) provides statewide, two-way interoperable communications to state, local, tribal and a limited number of federal government agencies over a shared communication platform. The DTRS in Colorado consists of 251 remote tower sites, serving more than 1,000 agencies and more than 100,000 subscriber units (individual radios) spread across six zones. The DTRS averages nearly 8 million calls per month. Some local agencies provide additional funding to add infrastructure to the overall DTRS. Several new DTRS radio tower sites are under various stages of planning and construction. The Emergency Medical and Trauma Services funding program continues to assist with improvement of local communications needs throughout the state. Funding has provided equipment to agencies to enable them to utilize the DTRS and in some cases to keep legacy communication systems operational.

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. Chartered in 2012, its mission is to ensure the building, deployment and operation of the nationwide, broadband network that equips first responders to save lives and protect U.S. communities. Public safety spent years advocating for a nationwide broadband network for first responders following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Major public safety organizations continue to voice their strong support for the FirstNet network today. 'FirstNet Powered by AT&T' continues to work toward building out sites in Colorado to improve needed coverage.

House Bill 18-1325, known as the DTRS Coverage Bill, provided an appropriation of \$2 million dollars in FY18-19 and \$2 million dollars in FY19-20 for the Office of Information Technology, Public Safety Communications Network to work in partnership with local and regional government entities to add additional Digital Trunked Radio System (DTRS) sites in areas experiencing critical coverage gaps for public safety radio communications. This program assisted with funding improvements at 10 new DTRS sites to fill known radio signal coverage gaps.





## EMTS Data Tables

▼ = Decrease from prior period.	▲ = Increase from prior period.	↔ = No change from prior period.
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EMS Personnel by level in Colorado					
Level	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2
Registered EMR	438	382	383	370	366 ▼
EMT	13,382	13,400	13,556	13,663	13,701 ▲
Advanced-EMT	349	352	383	381	371 ▼
EMT-Intermediate	419	399	390	384	366 ▼
Paramedic	4,436	4,495	4,522	5,015	5058 ▲
<b>Total EMS Personnel*</b>	18,586 ▼	19,098 ▲	19,317 ▲	19,443 ▲	19,496 ▲

\* Total EMS Personnel excludes registered EMRs

Subset of EMS Personnel With Endorsements or License					
Level	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2
EMT Licensed	n/a	n/a	n/a	371	501 ▲
AEMT Licensed	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	21 ▲
Paramedic Licensed	n/a	n/a	n/a	299	372 ▲
Paramedic Critical Care Endorsement	412	422	430	436	455 ▲
Paramedic Community Paramedic Endorsement	23	22	25	24	26 ▲
Paramedic Critical Care + Community Paramedic Endorsements	7	8	8	14	13 ▼

\*Data presented in this table are a subset of the total EMS personnel presented in the table above.





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Peer Support Fees Collected					
	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2
Fees Collected	\$5,045.07	\$4,049.05	\$3,670.15	\$4,925.95	\$4,207.50 ▼
Net Program Fees	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 33,884.40

\*The Peer Support Fee is the \$2.55 charge per EMS certification or license issued. Net Program Fees are the total fees collected during the life of the program, less refunds issued. The current life of the program is from August 3, 2019 through June 30, 2021.

EMS Education Programs					
	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2
Education Programs	218	220	224	225	225 →

NREMT Cognitive Exams: Cumulative Pass Rates (Colorado vs National)							
	National				Colorado		
	2019	2020	2021 YTD		2019	2020	2021 YTD
EMT	81%	78% ▼	77%	EMT	85%	84% ▼	81%
AEMT	78%	73% ▼	71%	AEMT	80%	80% →	90%
Paramedic	89%	85% ▼	80%	Paramedic	98%	99% ▲	87%

\*\* Data report provided by NREMT.org; data for the prior 24 months will change as candidates test. Updated 6/21/2021

Air Ambulance Agencies					
	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2
Licensed	20	20	20	21	22 ▲
Recognized	11	10	8	11	11 ▲
Total	31 ▼	30 ▼	28 ▼	32 ▲	33 ▲







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Exigent Circumstance Air Ambulance Flights					
	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2
Approved	0	1	0	2	0 ▼
Denied	0	0	0	1	0 ▼

Scope of Practice Waivers (Active)					
	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2020 Q4	2021 Q2
Waivers (BLS)	4	4	3	3	3 →
Waivers (ALS)	417	421	346	382	382 →
Waivers (BLS + ALS)	35	45	42	44	44 →
Total	456 ▲	470 ▲	391 ▼	429 ▲	429 →

Licensed Ambulance Agency & ePCR Data					
	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2020 Q1	2021 Q2
EMS Agencies Reporting	178	176	180	195 ▲	
EMS Records Submitted	146,483	166,458	166,163	163,999 ▼	

Note, in accordance with data rules, agencies have 60 days to submit data. 2020 (Q4) is the most recent data.





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CREATE and Emergency Grants					
	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2
CREATE Grant Awards	\$33,803	\$45,221	\$33,954	\$29,744	\$23,312
Emergency Grants	0	0	0	0	0

Provider Grants and System Improvement Funding					
	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2
Applications Received	-	-	-	72	-
Funds Requested	-	-	-	\$4.4M	-
Funds Awarded	-	\$3.7 M	-	-	\$3.9M

Trauma System Designated Reviews Conducted					
Designation Level	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2
Level 1	Designation reviews were suspended during this time period due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.			0	0
Level 2				2	1
Level 3				3	3
Level 4				0	0
Level 5				0	1
Total				5	5

Colorado Trauma System Facility Designations							
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Total Designated	Non-designated
Number	6	13	27	34	4	84 →	45 →





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Enforcement: EMS Personnel					
EMS Personnel	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2
New Complaints /Investigations & Background Check Reviews	293	236	288	242	183 ▼
Application / Renewal Denial	0	2	0	0	0 ↔
Letter of Admonition	1	0	0	1	1 ↔
Probation/Temp Probation	1	2	5	3	8 ▲
Suspension/Temp Suspension	1	1	3	5	5 ↔
Revocation	0	0	0	0	2 ▲
Relinquishment	1	0	2	0	2 ▲

\* Dismissed/No Action includes complaints and reviews of criminal history for initial applicants, renewals, and FBI/CBI subsequent reports.

Enforcement: Air Ambulance Agencies					
	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2
New Complaints / Investigations	0	0	1	1	2 ▲
Closed Complaints/Investigations	0	0	0	1	0 ▼
Dismissed / No Action	0	0	0	0	0 ↔
Conditional License	0	0	0	1	0 ▼
Suspension	0	0	0	0	0 ↔
Revocation	0	0	0	0	0 ↔

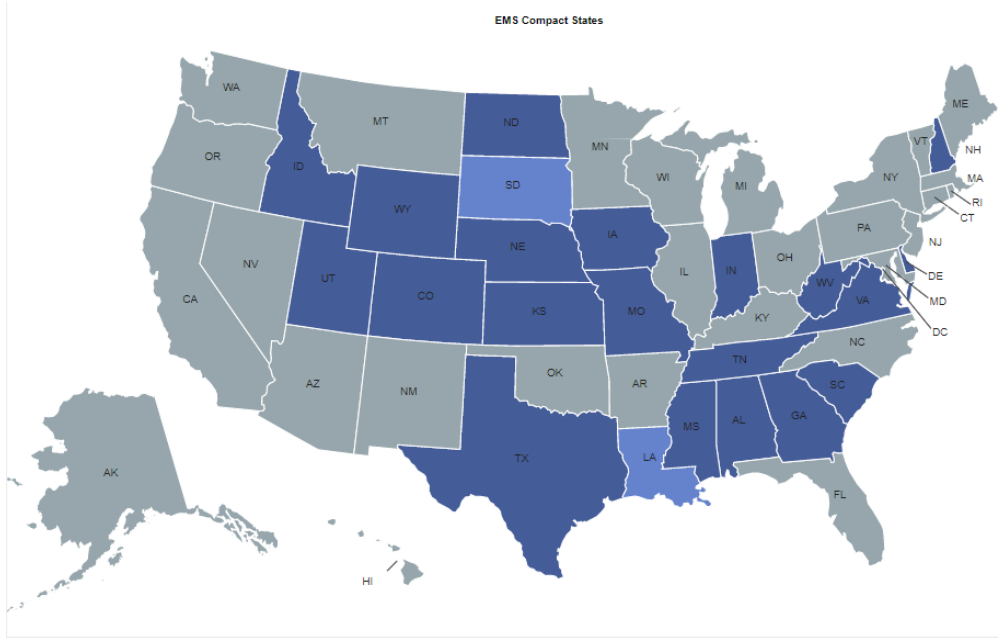




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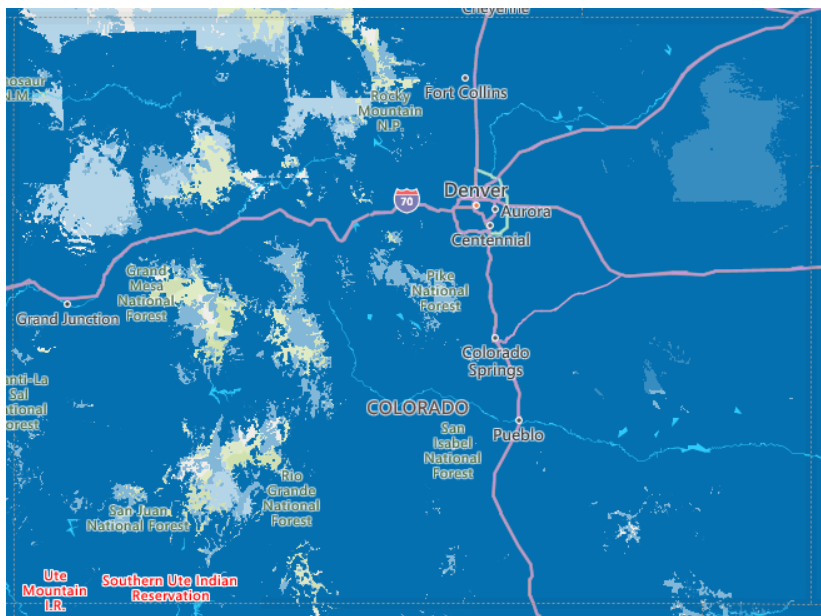
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## Interstate Compact for EMS Personnel Practice Member States



Louisiana and South Dakota joined the EMS Compact on July 1, 2021.

## FirstNet Coverage Map for Colorado



### Legend

- International Coverage
- LTE With Priority
- LTE Without Priority
- 3G/4G
- 2G
- Tribal Land Borders

Priority on LTE will be available in the first phase of the FirstNet network deployment.

Map will be updated to reflect Band 14 coverage as it is deployed.

Map displays predicted approximate current outdoor wireless coverage. Actual coverage is not guaranteed and is subject to change without notice.





EMTS Branch Personnel Roster		
Name	Section	Position Description
Donnie Woodyard	Branch	Branch Chief
Amber Viitanen	Data	Section Manager
Angela Bahn	Data	Data Quality Specialist
Scott Beckley	Data	Lead Data Analyst
Dale Knochenmus	Data	Statistical Analyst
Matt Pickler	Data	Management and Technology Advisor
Michael Bateman	Operations	Section Manager
Vanessa Brazee	Operations	Licensing Specialist
Eric Lucas	Operations	EMS Operations Specialist
Jennyfer Nguyen	Operations	Certification Technician
Timothy Petreit	Operations	Peer Assistance Coordinator
Martin Duffy	Trauma	Section Manager
Eileen Brown	Trauma	Emergent Systems of Care Specialist
Lisa Domenico	Trauma	Trauma Section Administrative Assistant
Kiva Thompson	Trauma	Trauma System Nurse Consultant
Eric Schmidt	Funding	Section Manager
Samantha Meza	Funding	EMTS Branch Coordinator
Mattew Paswaters	Funding	Boards and Councils Coordinator
Andre Smith	Funding	Grants and Communications Coordinator

