

## **Blosser, Chad (VDH)**

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**From:** Blosser, Chad (VDH)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 1:23 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** ACE Division Notification

Dear Chad,

Good afternoon from Richmond.

As many of you know by now, the Office of EMS experienced a budget shortfall in the last fiscal year. Our leadership team is currently re-evaluating all spending in order to ensure that our focus is on our core activity of carrying out essential programs that ensure a comprehensive, coordinated EMS system in the Commonwealth.

Debbie and I wanted to reach out to each of you to make you aware of how the re-evaluation process will affect two (2) line items overseen by the ACE Division.

### **Virginia EMS Scholarship Program**

Due to the budget shortfall, a final decision was made on September 11, 2023 to reduce the funding for the scholarship program for FY24 to \$1.5 million from the \$2.0 million originally allocated. This will be re-evaluated in the coming months to determine whether we can return the allocated amount to \$2.0 million.

Currently, for FY24, we have approved \$487,624.00 in scholarships with an additional \$174,815.00 in scholarship applications in the approval pipeline for a total of \$662,439.00. This leaves \$837,561.00 to fund the program this fiscal year.

When speaking with students about the scholarship program please make sure that if funding is available through the college or the program they should seek that those funds first. Once the program has exhausted funding, the Virginia EMS Portal will notify students that there are no longer funds available this fiscal year and the system will no longer accept applications. Retroactive applications will not be allowed as we move into FY25.

### **Blackboard**

Additionally, due to lack of use and the expense of this service, the Office has initiated the process of terminating our contract with Blackboard. We will be moving the Education Coordinator Village content to Moodle in the very near future and will provide you with your account information in a separate e-mail.

Should you have any questions about this notification, please reach out to directly to Debbie Akers at [deborah.t.akers@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:deborah.t.akers@vdh.virginia.gov) as she is the designated POC for our Division regarding the budget shortfall.

Best,

Chad

### **Chad Blosser**

Education Program Manager  
Division of Accreditation, Certification & Education  
Office of Emergency Medical Services

Phone: [\(804\) 888-9124](tel:(804)888-9124)

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Virginia Department of Health  
Office of Emergency Medical Services  
1041 Technology Park Drive  
Glen Allen, VA 23059

