PSATC
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Harrison Township
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

PSATC Impact Award Winner
Public Safety & Emergency Services Innovation

Harrison Township's Long-Term Structure for EMS Services



The Catalyst:

Recognizing the importance of EMS services and its current challenges, Harrison Township and the Boroughs of Tarentum and Brackenridge collaborated to create the Alle-Kiski Emergency Services Authority.

Implementation:

The development of the Alle-Kiski Emergency Services Authority began with a regional steering committee. Early discussions included six neighboring municipalities, but ultimately Harrison, Tarentum, and Brackenridge moved forward. After a multi-year effort, these communities passed the Articles of Incorporation on March 25, 2026, and on April 13, 2026, were recognized by the PA Department of State as incorporated by the Municipal Authorities Act.

Innovation:

This reliable, long-term funding structure helps communities manage increasing call volumes and rising operational costs.

Fiscal Responsibility:

The current EMS funding model, such as billing revenue, municipal support, and occasional grants, was no longer sustainable. The new model is funded through base service charges that support operational readiness, similar to how utilities like water and sewer systems are funded.

Takeaways for Municipalities:

Rather than wait for a complete service collapse or react during a crisis, start planning early. This allows municipalities to evaluate funding models, governance structures and operational needs thoughtfully. The model also allows additional municipalities to join in the future.

