



## HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Billing Ordinance and Fee Schedule Proposal

**GOALS**  $\Rightarrow$  **STRATEGY**  $\Rightarrow$  **PERFORMANCE**



# Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fee Schedule

- PFM Consulting was selected to work with stakeholders including City Departments, Controller's Office and City Council, to develop a long-range financial plan for the City of Houston.
- Over 50 recommendations to begin addressing the City's financial challenges were made as part of the long-range financial plan released in November 2017
- The following ordinance proposals are pursuant to those recommendations



# Proposed EMS Fee Schedule Changes

- Increase the base rate for EMS Transport to \$1876.40
- Initiate charge at the CMS BLS rate of \$365.00 for Field Terminations
- Initiate charge of \$175.00 for Treatment-no-Transport
- Initiate charge of \$175.00 for Lift Assist calls



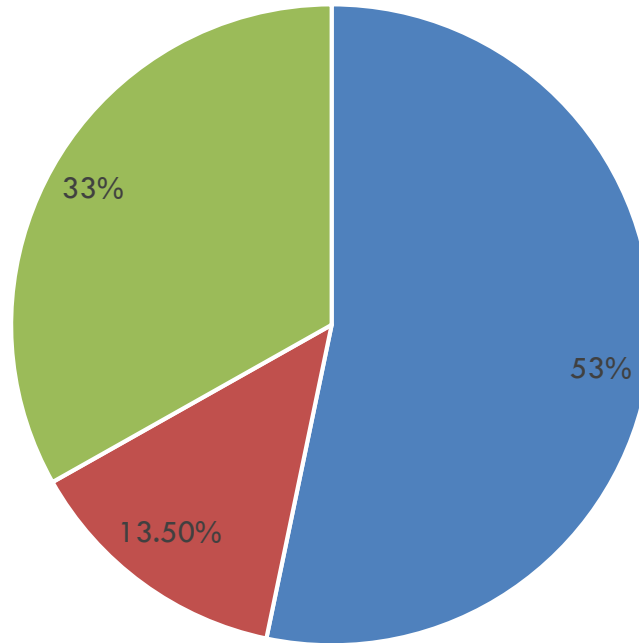
# EMS Transport Fee

- Finance Department cost analysis conducted in 2016
- Last EMS Transport fee increase in 2012
- Current EMS transport service fee: \$1104.65
- Current EMS transport service cost: \$1876.40



# EMS Transport Fee

Payer Mix

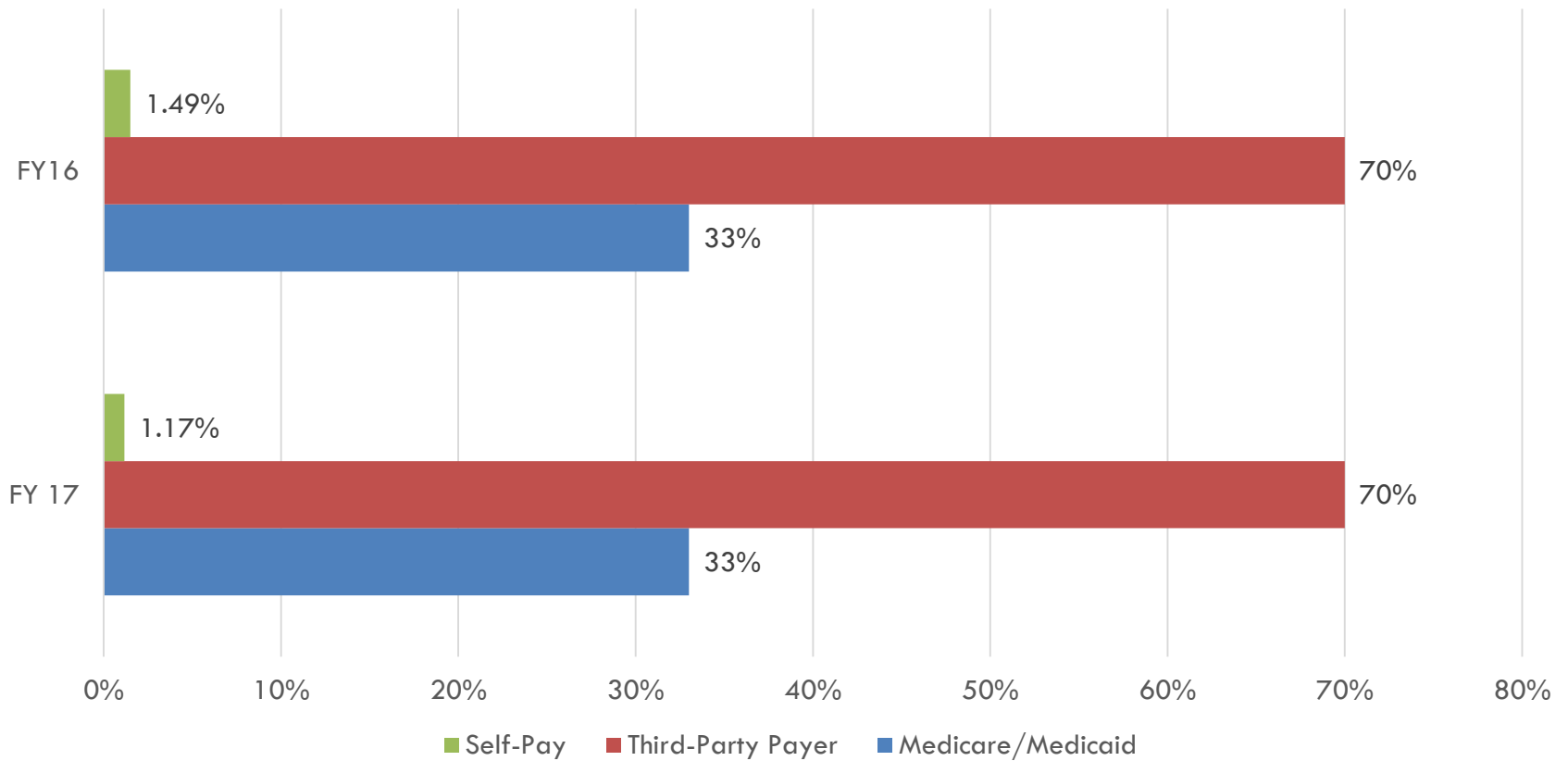


■ Medicare/Medicaid   ■ Commercial/Third-Party Payer   ■ Self-Pay



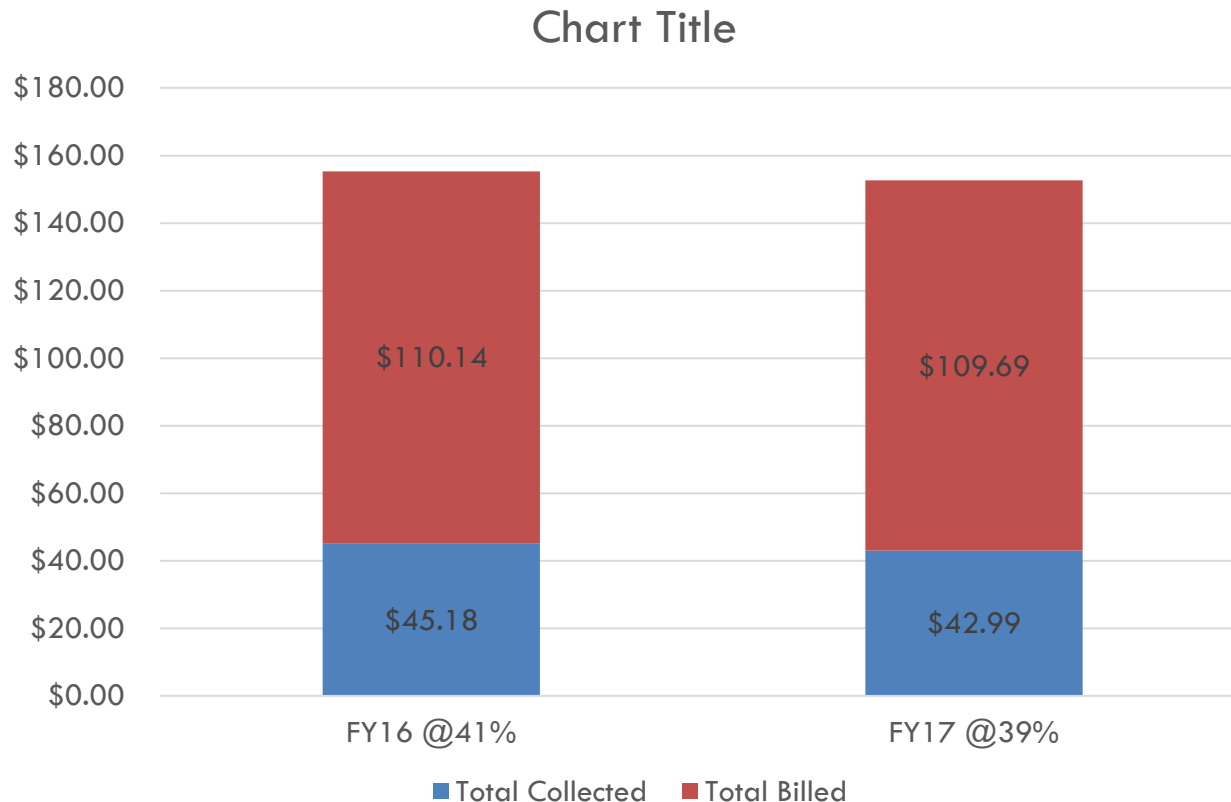
# EMS Transport Fee

Payer Reimbursement



# EMS Transport Fee

## EMS Transport Fee Collections



# EMS Transport Fee

Outstanding Account Receivable*	
FY 16	FY17
\$65,182,887	\$64,656,888

\*Figures base on total net charges billed and total received





# EMS Transport Fee

- Current EMS transport fee
  - \$1104.65 plus \$14.36 per mile
- Proposed EMS transport fee
  - \$1876.40 plus \$14.36 per mile



# Field Termination Fee

- At Federal level, all EMS providers are categorized as transport services
- Billing Codes primarily apply to EMS transports
- CMS allows exemption for Field Termination fees
  - Current charge \$0
  - Recommendation to bill at BLS rate: \$365.00



# Treatment-no-Transport Fee

- Provide therapeutic care without transport.
- Not intended for full cost recovery.
- Currently no fee
  - Recommendation: \$175.00
- CMS does not support fee. Some private insurers may reimburse.
- FY18 had nearly 30,000 responses for therapeutic care without transport.
  - Estimated collections at 15%.



# Lift Assist Fee

- No therapy or care, only assistance to return the person upright or to a position of comfort.
  - Currently no fee, recommended fee of \$175.00
- Lift Assist
  - Not intended to cover “full” cost of response.
  - Create opportunity to enlighten responsible party/third party payer that the individual may need assistance/intervention.



Questions?

