

Emergency Medical Services – Match for Code Blue Project **FY2013 Request:** **\$450,000**
Reference No: **42837**

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Equipment
Category: Health/Human Services **Recipient:** Code Blue Steering Committee
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact:** Jennifer Klein
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2017 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Code Blue Steering Committee was formed to identify need for and purchase critical Emergency Medical Services (EMS) equipment and ambulances for EMS agencies around the state, particularly in rural locations. This year a total of \$450,000 is required to match federal, local and private funds to be allocated for all seven EMS regional offices for such needs as ambulances, heart monitors, training equipment, and communications equipment. One dollar in state general funds leverages more than four additional dollars in other funds.

Funding:	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	Total
G/F Match	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$2,700,000
Total:	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$2,700,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

CH5/SLA11/P84/L31 - \$425,000 GF/Match
 CH43/SLA10/P28/L9 - \$425,000 GF/Match
 CH15/SLA09/P15/L16 - \$425,000 GF/Match
 CH29/SLA08/P149/L7 - \$425,000 GF/Match
 CH29/SLA08/P149/L10 - \$425,000 GF/Match
 CH30/SLA07/P94/L32 - \$425,000 GF/Match
 CH82/SLA06/P73/L5 - \$425,000 GF/Match
 CH3/SLA05/P56/L22 - \$425,00 GF/Match
 CH159/SLA04/P26/L24 - \$325,000 ASLC Dividends
 CH82/SLA03/P28/L21 - \$425,000 GF/Match
 CH1/SSSLA02/P40/L18 - \$425,000 GF/Match

Project Description/Justification:

There are agencies in seven regions of the state that work with Code Blue:

- Interior Region EMS Council, Inc.
- Maniilaq Association
- North Slope Borough

- Norton Sound Health Corporation
- Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.
- Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.
- Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation

To provide effective life-saving services, EMS ambulance and first responder personnel need adequate, reliable emergency medical equipment and ambulance vehicles. The Department of Health and Social Services, in cooperation with regional EMS programs throughout the state, has documented a critical need for new EMS equipment and ambulances, particularly in rural communities. Many old ambulances and EMS equipment were purchased with federal grants in the late 1970s and early 1980s. These vehicles and equipment must be replaced to ensure the continued viability of a statewide, comprehensive, life-saving EMS system. Most of the communities with old, failing equipment are staffed with volunteer EMTs who do not have access to the funding necessary to purchase new ambulances and equipment.

The process for dispersing Code Blue funds is as follows:

- Regions annually solicit items for inclusion on the Code Blue Database.
- The requests must be accompanied by a strong justification.
- Requests and justifications are reviewed by the medical directors for appropriateness and by the regional boards.
- The regional boards will either forward to the Code Blue Steering Committee, deny the request, or seek further justification and explanation to make a sound judgment.
- The requests go from the regions to the Steering Committee.
- Costs of individual items range from \$300 to over \$200,000 for a fully equipped ambulance.

This process ensures that the need is real, that the request is appropriate and reasonable, and that a priority is assigned to each request for funding.

These capital requests can be expected to continue. The small communities do not have the ability to meet these needs, but they must maintain an EMS capability to ensure a comprehensive response to emergencies. Although most items, especially the vehicles, will have a very long life expectancy, throughout the state there will always be a community that needs to replace a vehicle or other essential equipment.

In 2010 critical equipment needs identified in the Code Blue Database total over \$3,680,000. During the past ten years, 2001-2010, about a \$3,500,000 investment from the State of Alaska served as catalyst for additional grant monies yielding over \$15,000,000 in capital projects.

Through a collaborative effort of various funding agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Rasmuson Foundation, the Denali Commission and local communities, over \$15,000,000 of new equipment has been purchased so far. Key to this success is the local match pledged by communities, leveraging of other funding sources, and the considered use of the capital funds made available annually for Code Blue matching funds. Requests continue to come in each year to replace broken and outdated items, ensuring the system remains healthy.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Rural Development Office has a community grant program that can fund up to 75% of the cost of an ambulance and medical equipment for communities that meet certain eligibility criteria. The remaining 25% must be provided as matching

funds. Funds received through this appropriation will be used to match funds from the USDA and other sources, and will help purchase equipment for communities which are ineligible for other funding but have critical equipment needs.

Continuing capital appropriations each year help keep up with on-going needs for EMS equipment and ambulances for rural, volunteer EMS ambulance and first responder squads throughout the state, particularly those which are ineligible for funding from other sources such as the USDA.

The federal USDA Rural Development Office community grant program is an on-going program that Alaska could presumably continue to access on an annual basis to continue to support replacement of outdated EMS equipment and ambulances. We anticipate a continuing annual need of approximately \$2,200,000 for replacement and upgrade of EMS equipment and ambulances for communities across Alaska. The ongoing capital appropriation demonstrates to other funding agencies that the state is committed to the Code Blue program. The Code Blue project contributes to the Department's mission by providing EMS equipment throughout Alaska that is essential to maintaining the health of Alaskans.

Mission:

To promote and protect the health and well-being of Alaskans.

End Result:

The physical health of Alaskans is optimized. Alaskans have access to health care.