

Emergency Medical Services Match for Code Blue Project **FY2014 Request: \$450,000**
Reference No: 42837

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Equipment
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact:** Jennifer Klein
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2018 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Funds are needed to continue the work of the Code Blue Steering committee. This committee was formed to identify and purchase critical Emergency Medical Services (EMS) equipment and ambulances for agencies around the state, particularly in rural locations. This year \$450,000 is required to match federal, local and private funds to be allocated for all seven 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 fund sources.

Funding:	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Total
G/F Match	\$450,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$2,950,000
Total:	\$450,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$2,950,000

<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

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P118 L19 SB160 \$450,000
 Sec1 Ch5 SLA2011 P84 L31 SB46 \$425,000
 Sec7 Ch43 SLA2010 P28 L9 SB230 \$425,000
 Sec1 Ch15 SLA2009 P15 L16 SB75 \$425,000
 Sec13 Ch29 SLA2008 P149 L7 SB221 \$265,000
 Sec13 Ch29 SLA2008 P149 L10 SB221 \$425,000
 Sec4 Ch30 SLA2007 P94 L32 SB53 \$425,000
 Sec1 Ch82 SLA2006 P73 L5 SB231 \$425,000
 Sec1 Ch3 SLA2005 P56 L22 SB46 \$425,000
 Sec1 Ch159 SLA2004 P26 L24 SB283 \$325,000

Project Description/Justification:

The Code Blue Program is coordinated by a steering committee comprised of representatives from the Alaska Section of Emergency Programs, and the seven Emergency Medical Services Regions:

- Interior Region Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.
- Maniilaq Association
- North Slope Borough
- Norton Sound Health Corporation
- Southeast Region Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.
- Southern Region Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.
- Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation

To provide effective life-saving services, the Emergency Medical Services Ambulances and Equipment Statewide - Match for Code Blue Capital Grant Program assists with ambulances, first responder personnel needs and adequate and reliable emergency medical equipment. The Department of Health and Social Services, in collaboration with the Emergency Medical Services Regional offices throughout the state, has documented a critical need for essential capital equipment and ambulances, particularly in rural communities. Many old ambulances and 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 emergency medical services system. Most of the communities with old, failing equipment are staffed by volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and responders 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:

- The regions annually solicit requests for essential capital equipment;
- A request must be accompanied by a strong justification;
- The requests and justifications are reviewed, approved, and prioritized by the Regional Emergency Medical Services offices. Patient care items must be approved by a physician medical director at the local or regional level;
- The Regional office forwards approved requests to the Code Blue Steering Committee; alternately, the Region may deny the request or seek further justification and further explanation in order to make a sound judgment;
- Costs of individual items range from \$300 to over \$200,000 for a fully equipped ambulance.

This process ensures that a request is for an essential capital item, that the request is medically appropriate and reasonable, and that a priority is assigned to each request for funding.

The small communities do not have the ability to meet these needs, but they must maintain an emergency medical services capability to ensure a comprehensive response to emergencies. Although most items, especially the vehicles, will have a ten to fifteen year life expectancy, throughout the state there will always be a community that needs to replace a vehicle or other essential equipment.

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 \$20,500,000 of new equipment has been purchased. 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 that the system remains healthy. The 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 federal government and other sources, and will help purchase equipment for communities that have critical equipment needs but are ineligible for other funding.

The Federal Rural Development Office Community Grant Program is an on-going program that Alaska could presumably continue to access on an annual basis to support replacement of outdated emergency medical services equipment and ambulances. We anticipate an annual need of over \$500,000 for replacement and upgrade of equipment and ambulances for communities across Alaska. Requests for replacement of equipment depend on depreciation or obsolescence. In order to replace these items, funding will have to be increased in the future. The ongoing capital appropriation demonstrates to other funding agencies that the state is committed to the Emergency Medical Services Code Blue program.

Continuing capital appropriations each year helps to keep up with on-going needs for equipment and ambulances for rural, volunteer emergency medical services ambulance and first responder squads throughout the state, particularly those that are ineligible for funding from other sources.