

**Emergency Medical Services Ambulances and Equipment**      **FY2011 Request: \$425,000**  
**Statewide – Match for Code Blue Project**                      **Reference No: 42837**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation    **Project Type:** Equipment / Commodities  
**Category:** Health/Human Services  
**Location:** Statewide    **Contact:** Arnold Liebelt  
**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)                      **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870  
**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2010 - 06/30/2015

**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 EMS agencies around the state, particularly in rural locations. Through several sources of funding, much of the need has been satisfied, but funds are still required to continue the work. This year a total of \$425,000 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.

<b>Funding:</b>	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>Total</u>
G/F Match	\$425,000						\$425,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$425,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$425,000

<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
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	0	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

- CH15/SLA09/P15/L16–\$425.0 GF/Match
- CH29/SLA08/P149/L7–\$425.0 GF/Match
- CH29/SLA08/P149/L10–\$425.0 GF/Match
- CH30/SLA07/P94/L32–\$425.0 GF/Match
- CH82/SLA06/P73/L5–\$425.0 GF/Match
- CH3/SLA05/P56/L22–\$425.0 GF/Match
- CH159/SLA04/P26/L24–\$325.0 ASLC Dividends
- CH82/SLA03/P28/L21–\$425.0 GF/Match
- CH1/SSSLA02/P40/L18–\$425.0 GF/Match
- CH61/SLA01/Pgs19 and 119/Lns20 and 9–\$533.0GF/Match (\$333.3 operating)

**Project Description/Justification:**

There are seven regional agencies in the State of Alaska who work with Code Blue:

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

**Emergency Medical Services Ambulances and Equipment  
Statewide – Match for Code Blue Project**

**FY2011 Request: \$425,000  
Reference No: 42837**

- 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 (DHSS), 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 1970's and early 1980's. These vehicles and equipment must be replaced to ensure the continued viability of a state-wide, comprehensive, life saving, EMS system. Most of the communities with old, failing equipment are staffed with volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) 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:

- On an annual basis, each region solicits items from their respective communities for inclusion in the Code Blue database.
- Each request must be accompanied by a strong justification of need.
- Requests and justifications are reviewed by each region's medical directors and regional board for appropriateness.
- The regional boards will either forward the request to the Code Blue Steering Committee, deny the request or seek further justification and explanation in order to make a sound judgment.
- The requests go from the regions to the Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee meets to review the approved requests and make funding recommendations.
- Costs of individual items range from \$300 to over \$200,000 for a fully equipped ambulance.

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

These capital requests can be expected to continue. Alaska's small communities do not have the ability to meet these needs, but they must maintain an EMS presence to ensure a comprehensive response to emergencies as they arise. Although most items, especially the vehicles, will have a very long life expectancy, throughout the State there will always be a community who needs to replace an aging vehicle or other piece of essential equipment.

In 2009, critical equipment needs identified in the Code Blue database total almost \$1.4 million. Throughout a collaborative effort of various funding agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Rasmuson Foundation and the Denali Commission, approximately \$16.5 million of new equipment has been purchased since the inception of the Code Blue program in 2001. 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 on an annual basis by the Code Blue matching funds. Requests continue to come in each year to replace broken and outdated items, ensuring the system remains healthy.

**Emergency Medical Services Ambulances and Equipment  
Statewide – Match for Code Blue Project**

**FY2011 Request: \$425,000  
Reference No: 42837**

The USDA's Rural Development Office has a community grant program which can fund up to 75% of the cost of an ambulance and medical equipment for communities who meet certain eligibility criteria. Each community's funding percentage is determined by the USDA utilizing a formula which takes into account certain criteria such as census numbers, average community income and population demographics. The remainder must be provided as matching funds from the State, local communities or a variety of other sources. Funds received through this appropriation will be used to match funds from the USDA and other sources, and will help purchase equipment for communities who are ineligible for other funding but have critical EMS equipment needs.

Continuing capital appropriations each year help keep up with the ongoing need for EMS equipment and ambulances for rural volunteer EMS ambulance and first responder squads throughout the State, particularly those who are ineligible for funding from other sources such as the USDA.

The federal USDA Rural Development Office community grant program is an ongoing program which 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 \$2.2 million for replacement and upgrade of EMS equipment and ambulances for communities across Alaska. The ongoing capital appropriation demonstrates to other funding agencies the State is committed to the Code Blue Program.

Department's Mission: *To promote and protect the health and well being of Alaskans.* The Code Blue Project contributes to the Department's mission by providing EMS equipment throughout Alaska which is essential to maintaining the health of Alaskans.

The end result to which this project contributes is "*healthy people in healthy communities.*"