

**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:** Michael Frawley  
**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2015 - 06/30/2020      **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Code Blue (The Alaska Code Blue Project: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agencies in the Last Frontier) leverages local and federal funding sources, including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), with required state matching funds. Code Blue purchased equipment saves lives of critically ill and injured Alaskans through ambulances, rural patient transport vehicles, heart monitors, and other training and communications equipment. Code Blue funding of \$500,000 maximizes the seven EMS regions' eligibility for external funding, particularly in rural locations with the most critical unmet needs.

<b>Funding:</b>	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	Total
G/F Match	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$3,000,000
Total:	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$3,000,000

<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
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

- Sec34 Ch18 SLA2014 P115 L24 SB119 \$500,000
- Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P66 L10 SB18 \$450,000
- 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
- Sec1 Ch82 SLA2003 P28 L21 SB100 \$425,000
- Sec1 Ch1 SLA2002 P40 L18 SB2006 \$425,000
- Sec1 Ch61 SLA2001 P19 L20 SB29 \$200,000
- Sec1 Ch61 SLA2001 P119 L9 SB29 \$333,300

**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, Emergency Medical Services Ambulances and Equipment Statewide - Match for Code Blue Capital Grant Program assists with ambulances, first responder personnel needs 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 1970's and early 1980's. These vehicles and equipment must be replaced to ensure the continued viability of a statewide, comprehensive, life-saving emergency medical services system.

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 since program inception in FY2002. 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 percent of the cost of an ambulance and medical equipment for communities that meet certain eligibility criteria. The remaining 25 percent 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. Requests for replacement of equipment depend on depreciation or obsolescence. The on-going capital appropriation demonstrates to other funding agencies that the state is committed to the Emergency Medical Services Code Blue program.

Funding

Title	FY2014 Expenditures as of 09/30/2014*	FY2015 Authorization	FY2016 Request	FY2017 Anticipated Expenditures*
EMS Code Blue	\$88,524	\$0	\$500,000	\$100,000

\* Actual and Anticipated Expenditures are based on the specific year appropriation.