

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:** Amy Burke
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2024 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1624

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Funds are needed to continue supporting communities' purchase of essential emergency medical response equipment. The Code Blue Steering 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 \$500,000 is required to match federal, local and private funds to be allocated for all seven regional offices for needs such as: ambulances, heart monitors, training equipment, and communications equipment. One dollar of state general funds leverages greater than four dollars in other fund sources.

| Funding: | <u>FY2020</u> | <u>FY2021</u> | <u>FY2022</u> | <u>FY2023</u> | <u>FY2024</u> | <u>FY2025</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1003 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 |
| Totals: | 0 | 0 |

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

- Sec1 Ch19 SLA2018 P7 L6 SB142 \$500,000
- Sec1 Ch1 SLA2017 P5 L12 SB23 \$500,000
- Sec1 Ch2 SLA2016 P4 L26 SB138 \$500,000
- Sec1 Ch38 SLA2015 P5 L4 SB26 \$500,000
- Sec34 Ch18 SLA2014 P115 L24 SB119 \$500,000
- Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P66 L10 HCS CSSB18 \$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 SB247 \$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, 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.

Funds are distributed through the following process which ensures that a request is for an essential capital item, is medically appropriate and reasonable, and that a priority is assigned to each request for funding:

- 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.

Small communities do not have the ability to independently meet these needs, but they must maintain emergency medical services to ensure a comprehensive response to emergencies. Throughout the state most items, especially vehicles, have a ten to fifteen year life expectancy, so there is always a community requiring replacement of 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 \$22,000,000 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% 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 ongoing program that Alaska could 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 ongoing capital appropriation demonstrates to other funding agencies that the state is committed to the Emergency Medical Services Code Blue program.