

Emergency Medical Services Match for Code Blue Project **FY2025 Request: \$500,000**
Reference No: AMD 64734

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Life / Health / Safety
Category: Health/Human Services **Recipient:** NA
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1 - 40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40) **Contact:** Josie Stern
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2029 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1630

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Continued support of Alaskan communities' purchasing of essential emergency medical response equipment.

Funding:	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	Total
1003	\$500,000						\$500,000
GF/Match							
Total:	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required	<input checked="" 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>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec11 Ch11 SLA2022 P90 L10 HB281 \$500,000
 Sec1 Ch1 SLA2021 P73 L12 HB69 \$500,000
 Sec1 Ch8 SLA2020 P65 L28 HB206 \$500,000
 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 P147 L10 SB221 \$425,000
 Sec13 Ch29 SLA2008 P149 L7 SB221 \$265,000
 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

This request was made in prior years relating to the Emergency Medical Services Match for Code Blue Project.

Project Description/Justification:

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 fiscal year, \$500,000 is required to match federal, local, and private funds that are allocated to all seven regional offices for needs such as ambulances, heart monitors, training equipment, and communications equipment. One dollar of State general funds leverages more than four dollars in other fund sources.

The Code Blue Program Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from the Division of Public Health, Section of Emergency Programs, and the seven EMS 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

The Department of Health, in collaboration with the EMS regional offices throughout the state, 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. This equipment must be replaced to ensure the continued viability of a statewide, comprehensive, life-saving EMS 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 with a strong justification.
- The requests and justifications are reviewed, approved, and prioritized by the regional EMS offices. Patient care items must be approved by a physician medical director at the local or regional level.
- When approved, the regional office forwards the approved request to the Code Blue Steering Committee.
- 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 must maintain emergency medical services to ensure a comprehensive response to emergencies.

Throughout the state, most items, especially vehicles, have a 10 to 15-year life expectancy. There are always communities 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 in new equipment has been purchased since program inception in FY2002. Key to this success is the local match pledged by communities, the leveraging of other funding sources, and the considered use of capital funds made available annually for Code Blue matching funds. Requests continue to come in each year to replace broken and outdated items. 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 ongoing program that Alaskan communities can access on an annual basis to support replacement of outdated EMS 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 EMS Code Blue program.