



## Southern Region EMS Council Anchorage, Alaska

Mission: Improve the quality, availability and sustainability of emergency patient care

6130 Tuttle Place, Suite B, Anchorage, AK 99507-7102

Telephone: (907) 562-6449, FAX: (907) 562-9893, [www.sremsc.org](http://www.sremsc.org)

### **APPLICATION PERIOD NOW OPEN FOR CODE BLUE PHASE 19**

**To:** Ambulance and First Responder Services and Rural Clinics  
Subarea Coordinators

**From:** John R. Gardner  
Executive Director

**Date:** August 10, 2018

**Subject:** Code Blue (Phase 19) Equipment Requests

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: OCTOBER 31, 2018**

#### **Can We Help?**

Does your department have unmet EMS equipment needs? Is there an essential EMS equipment item that needs to be replaced? Do you need updated training equipment? Is your patient transportation vehicle in need of replacement or non-existent? Maybe Southern Region EMS Council (SREMSC) and the Code Blue project can help. It's time again for us to do the annual assessment of capital equipment needs of the services in the region and open the application period for the Code Blue grant project. If your service has equipment needs that fit the program criteria, we would like to help.

#### **About Code Blue**

Code Blue was developed in 1999 to help rural Alaskan communities fund some of their essential EMS equipment needs. State, federal, local government and private foundation funding has come together in a powerful partnership to help emergency medical services. The Code Blue project has helped many communities by helping to replace worn out or aging equipment. Struggling volunteer services have gotten new equipment they might never have been able to afford. EMS providers are energized by the show of support. We have had good success with a variety of funding sources. The USDA-Rural Development project, the State of Alaska, the Rasmuson Foundation, the Denali Commission, local communities, borough governments, regional offices, and other agencies have come together to fund several million dollars in EMS equipment for rural Alaska since the program began. USDA funding is now directly applied for by each community and SREMSC can assist you in getting that process under way.

Southern Region EMS Council is a strong advocate for you and your emergency medical service. We work very hard to get approved projects funded, but first you have to do your part.

**Let's Get Started....**

You can apply for one, or several items. ***Requested equipment must cost over \$300 per item (shipping and handling NOT included) and is expected to last more than three years. Expendables and supplies will not be considered.*** Code Blue funds a variety of items from immobilization kits, pediatric kits, to vacuum mattresses, CPR manikins and radios to ambulances and patient transport vehicles. The important thing is that it is something **essential** that you REALLY need to provide quality patient care or training.

Thorough and complete applications, with the appropriate letters and signatures, are vital. You can help us help you by explaining your need and telling your story.

First though, you'll need to put your request together in the format requested. Before anything can be considered, please fill out the Annual EMS Survey which covers the last calendar year, 2017. It is required in order for this application to be accepted and is included with this form via email as well as on our website under the "Programs" tab.

- The Adobe Acrobat fillable form included with these application instructions can also be printed and completed in hard copy. It is also available on our website at the link below:
  - <https://www.sremsc.org/programs/code-blue-1/>
- Use the form and complete ***all*** the information requested.
- Follow the Application instructions.
- Please type ***(OR PRINT CLEARLY if you choose hand write)*** on all forms.
- Attach the quote or catalog page with item circled, for the requested equipment.
- Attach letters of support from your agency and local businesses and government.
- If requesting communications equipment, attach the ***Communications Questionnaire***.
- All requests must be reviewed and signed by your service Medical Director, if applicable.
- All requests **must** be reviewed and signed by your Subarea Coordinator for your area. The Subarea Coordinators are listed in this packet.

**Agency Match Requirement**

Code Blue projects are funded through a variety of grant sources. They all have one thing in common - they look for a community commitment to, and support of, the project being requested. By signing the "Code Blue EMS Equipment Request Form" you are committing to your agency match. A letter committing your cash match also needs to be submitted with the application. Ten percent (10%) is the minimum acceptable match on equipment. Five percent (5%) is the minimum acceptable match on vehicles.

**Vehicles:** *any patient transport (ASAP 911, ambulance, snowbalance, etc.) must include a vendor inflation buffer due to delay between grant process and State funds availability. A detailed shipping plan and cost estimates with contact information must be included for any patient transport vehicle*

**Eligibility**

The ambulance or first responder service must have submitted the most recent Annual EMS Survey by the deadline due and/or be enrolled in and participating in the State electronic data collection system (AURORA) to be eligible to apply through this process. <https://www.sremsc.org/programs/code-blue-1/>.

**The Application**

This application is also available on our website, [www.sremsc.org](http://www.sremsc.org). Look under “Programs” for “Code Blue”.

Make copies if you need to, ***as each item must be on a separate page***. Be sure and get the signature of your EMS Medical Director (if this applies to your agency), then send the entire packet to your subarea coordinator for review and signature. The ***completed*** applications must be received by Southern Region EMS Council **no later than October 31, 2018**.

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT IS OCTOBER 31, 2018**

If you provide service within an organized city, borough or municipality and you have submitted your request to them for inclusion on their capital list; please note that in your justification. These will be shared with your legislators and will add credibility to your local government’s requests, and vice versa.

**Definition of “Essential Equipment”**

“Essential Equipment” means equipment that for the purposes of the Code Blue Project:

- Is a durable item with a long life expectancy under normal use and has a cost of \$300 or more before shipping. Expendable items will not be funded; and
- Is required to ensure the safety of emergency medical services personnel;
- Replaces frequently used equipment that is no longer serviceable or medically appropriate;
- Is required to provide care in accordance with the appropriate core scope of practice/care delineated in 7 AAC 26.040, or other applicable regulation, and as supported by the appropriate physician medical director;
- Is required to conform to the EMS Goals document; or
- Is required to train emergency medical personnel at the Emergency Trauma Technician/ETT, Emergency Medical Technician – EMT-1, EMT-2 or EMT-3 level to the appropriate core scope of practice/care delineated in 7 AAC 26.040 and as supported by the appropriate physician medical director.

**Items Not Eligible**

Code Blue does not fund buildings, aircraft (fixed or rotor wing), extrication equipment, fire suppression equipment, turnouts-helmets-boots, office equipment, office computers or furniture, public access AEDs, equipment beyond the scope of practice, transitional ALMR equipment and/or equipment that has not been proven to be medically efficacious. We are happy to talk with you about other potential sources to which you can apply directly for these excluded items. If you have questions about what may or may not be eligible (or any other question), just give your sub-area coordinator a call. You can check further by calling J.R. Gardner at Southern Region EMS Council at (907) 562-6449.

Next page: Vehicle Requests

## **Vehicle Requests**

If you request a patient transport vehicle or ambulance, please be aware of the following requirements:

1. The vehicle will be titled to the service or community, and SREMSC will be a lienholder on the title. The title will be held by SREMSC.
2. Full insurance coverage to include liability, comprehensive and collision is required to be maintained. If the vehicle has USDA funding, full coverage insurance is required until the vehicle is valued at less than \$5,000. SREMSC and the USDA must be listed as additional loss payees on the policy. The insurance will also hold harmless SREMSC, USDA (if applicable) and the State of Alaska.
3. Proof of insurance must be provided to SREMSC annually or as the policy is renewed.
4. The vehicle must be stored in a heated garage space.
5. An organized EMS service must be maintained and ensure that providers are trained in the use of the vehicle.
6. A control system to prevent loss, damage, and theft must be maintained.
7. The vehicle must be properly maintained and maintenance records must be kept up to date.
8. Vehicle requests must be accompanied by a letter from the governing entity stating they will be responsible for heated inside storage, insurance, vehicle registration and on-going maintenance
9. SREMSC reserves the right to recover the vehicle in the case of non-monetary default, such as failure to operate, inadequate staffing, inadequate insurance, and/or inadequate maintenance.
10. The vehicle may not be sold or transferred, without prior written approval from SREMSC.
11. **IMPORTANT:** *any patient transport (ASAP 911, ambulance, snowbulance, etc.) price quote/estimate must include a vendor inflation buffer due to delay between grant process and State funds availability. A detailed shipping plan and cost estimates with contact information must be included for any patient transport vehicle.*

## **The Review Process**

Once the applications are submitted we go right to work on our part of this project so make sure that your application is thorough and complete when you send it in. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Capital Equipment Review Committee considers each request in detail and makes recommendations to the full Board. Approved items will become part of the Southern Region proposal to the Code Blue Steering Committee. Projects from across the state are discussed during the Spring Code Blue meeting and the statewide Code Blue project list is then finalized. Not all items will be approved for that final statewide list.

Your requests are considered by (in order of review):

1. Local Medical Director
2. Subarea Coordinators
3. SREMSC Staff
4. SREMSC Board of Directors Capital
5. Equipment Committee
6. SREMSC Board of Directors
7. Code Blue State Steering Committee
8. State EMS Office Staff
9. Funding Agencies

Next page: Application Checklist

**Application Checklist – Code Blue Phase 18**

Remember, to have the best chance of success at getting your capital projects funded, use the following checklist:

- Submit a separate “Code Blue EMS Equipment Request Form” for each item requested. If you are asking for more than one of the same item, (i.e. 2 suction units) only use one form.
- Follow the application instructions that accompany the Code Blue Request form.
- Include quote, catalogue page with item circled, or other documentation for the item cost. If your project is approved funding will not be available for at least one year later so let your vendors know to give you a quote that may include increased future costs. Patient transport items require a shipping plan with cost estimate and contacts.
- Supply all documentation requested in this packet, complete with all signatures.
- If you’re asking for communications equipment, be sure to include the Communications Questionnaire with your application.
- Communications infrastructure projects will be considered only if they are accompanied by design, planning, and/or formal preliminary work-up to define the problem, propose the solution, and outline the costs.
- Include a letter committing to the largest cash match contribution you can gather. The higher the match, the more favorably the funding agencies view the individual projects. Minimum local match is 5% for vehicles (motorized) and 10% for all other requests.
- Include letter(s) of support from your agency, local businesses, and local government, etc., as described above.
- Obtain ***ALL REQUIRED SIGNATURES***, EMS Agency Representative, Local EMS Medical Director, if applicable and Subarea EMS Coordinator ***BEFORE*** the request is submitted to SREMSC. Requests received without proper signatures will be considered incomplete and **will not** be considered.
- Obtain ***ALL REQUIRED SIGNATURES***, EMS Agency Representative, Local EMS
- Include W-9 with application packet even if you have submitted one in the past.
- Call your Subarea Coordinator for assistance. For additional assistance, call J.R. Gardner at Southern Region at (907) 562-6449. We are happy to look over the application ahead of time, if you ask us, and give you feedback.
- Submit the completed application and required documentation by close of business on **October 31, 2018** to:

**Southern Region EMS Council, 6130 Tuttle Place, Suite B, Anchorage, AK 99507**

**Applications can also be scanned and emailed to Julie Pannone.**

**Email: [jpannone@sremsc.org](mailto:jpannone@sremsc.org)**

**Fax: 907-562-9893**

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR  
SUBAREA COORDINATOR REVIEW AND SIGNATURE:**

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