

ALASKA'S CODE BLUE STEERING COMMITTEE



The Alaska Code Blue Project Manual

Steering Committee Policies & Procedures

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I. PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

The Code Blue Project was started in 1999. Its mission is to identify, prioritize and seek funding for essential capital equipment for emergency medical services in a way that is uniform, systematic, collaborative and maximizes resources. The project's purpose is to provide patient care and training equipment, patient transport, and communication needs, allowing responders to do their jobs in a safe and effective manner.

Requested items are reviewed at the regional level and state level. Items must be considered "essential" and have local, regional and state support before being included for funding under the project.

The success of the Code Blue Project has resulted from the collaboration and cooperation of Alaska EMS officials and regional EMS agencies, as well as from the assurance to fund only items that were confirmed as essential through a rigorous review process.

II. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Code Blue Steering Committee

The program is coordinated by a Steering Committee comprised of a representative of the Alaska EMS Office and the seven regional EMS offices. The Code Blue project is complex and requires considerable attention by Steering Committee members to ensure representation from their regions to facilitate continuity and consistency of the review process.

The following principles, roles and responsibilities serve as guidance for the Steering Committee:

1. The Steering Committee officers consist of a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.
 - The Chair's responsibilities will be to call, coordinate and conduct meetings and serve as the Steering Committee's representative for contact with the State of Alaska's Section of Rural and Community Health Systems/EMS Office, other officials, and organizations.
 - The Vice Chair will act in the event that the Chair cannot attend a meeting or represent the Steering Committee in any temporary capacity.
 - The Secretary will oversee the maintenance of the Code Blue Spreadsheet which is a listing of projects and funding approved by the Steering Committee; and shall maintain meeting minutes.
2. Elections of officers will be held at the fall meeting every even year.
3. Unless specified elsewhere, the Steering Committee will conduct their meetings according to Chairperson's rules of order.
4. The Steering Committee will develop policies regarding the relative priorities of equipment types, schedules for assessments of equipment needs and updates of the Code Blue Spreadsheet, and other policies and documents necessary to continue the program.
5. Members will meet in person twice per year and by teleconference, as necessary, to ensure the continuity of the program and conduct business. In general, face to face meetings will be held in the spring and fall.
 - The primary purpose of the spring meeting will be to review and prioritize Code Blue regional requests and recommend allocation of State funding.
 - The updated Code Blue Spreadsheet for each region needs to be submitted to the CBSC Secretary
 - The primary purpose of the fall meeting will be to review policies and procedures.

- Meeting agendas may be adjusted to reflect any matter which needs the attention of the Steering Committee.
6. Steering Committee members shall strive to participate in all meetings.
 7. Agencies employing Steering Committee members shall strive to ensure continuity of representation, as having different people attend meetings slows the Code Blue processes significantly and is otherwise detrimental to the project.
 8. Steering Committee members will:
 - Respond to requests for information in a timely and complete manner; and
 - Meet deadlines for submission of equipment requests and other documents.
 - Research funding sources.
 - Work to ensure Code Blue equipment is maintained and utilized appropriately, through its recommended useable life span according to funding grant guidelines.
 9. The Steering Committee will review, approve and prioritize requests in accordance with the Item Assessment Guidelines and existing Code Blue program guidelines and policies as described in this document. Only those items approved by the Steering Committee will be included for potential funding in the Code Blue Database.
 10. Items not approved by the Steering Committee may not be represented as “Code Blue” items for any purpose.
 11. Maintain historic records including meeting minutes, photographs, vignettes and approved Code Blue Databases.

The State of Alaska Office of EMS

The Office of EMS is an active participant in Steering Committee activities. The Office of EMS will:

1. To the extent possible, advocate for funding of Steering Committee meetings.
2. Attend meetings and assist with meeting logistics.
3. Maintain a web page related to the project.
4. Work with the Commissioner’s Office and other state officials to publicize the department’s activities related to Code Blue Project.

III. EQUIPMENT DEFINITIONS AND POLICIES

Essential Equipment

For the purposes of the Code Blue Project, “essential” capital equipment means equipment that:

- Is a durable item with a long life expectancy under normal use. Expendable items will not be funded.
- Has a unit cost of \$300 or more before shipping.
- Replaces frequently used equipment that is no longer serviceable.
- Is required to provide care in accordance with the appropriate core scope of care delineated in current state statutes and regulations or other applicable standards.
- Is required to train emergency medical personnel, as recognized by the State of Alaska, to the appropriate core scope of care delineated in current statutes, regulations and other applicable standards.
- Allows responders to do their jobs in a safe and effective manner.

Equipment Categories

General categories of equipment within the Code Blue Database include (*listed below in order of funding priority**):

Category	Description/Examples
Patient Care	Equipment for providing direct patient care, such as defibrillators, splints, oxygen equipment, airway management devices, etc.
Training	Equipment for teaching emergency medical care, such as training-specific computers and software, CPR manikins and airway trainers.
Transportation	Vehicles specifically designed and primarily used for safe and protected patient transport. May include ambulances, pickup trucks with a mounted patient compartment, all terrain vehicles, snow machines, boats, ambulance refurbishment/remounts, and rescue sleds.
Communications	Telecommunications equipment used for emergency medical services, such as base stations, hand held radios, vehicle mounted radios, satellite phones, pagers, etc.
Other	Essential EMS equipment which cannot be placed in one of the other categories. Computer and other equipment used for collecting and communicating electronic medical records, images, etc. are in this category.

* Emergency requests, with appropriate justification, will be considered first for funding.

Transportation Equipment

- All titled transportation equipment will have a lien held by its respective EMS Region through its depreciable life unless waived by the Steering Committee.
- Transportation equipment must be maintained in its intended configuration during its useful life
- Transportation equipment must be used only for direct or indirect support of emergency medical response.
- PTV's must be assembled prior to being shipped to the community.

Communications Equipment

Requests for communication equipment can be the most challenging to review for Steering Committee members because this field requires specific technical expertise. Consequently, it is important for the community, whenever possible, to ensure that the request has been reviewed and supported by communications professionals, and this should be documented in the request. This may not be necessary when simply replacing radios. However, it is essential when making requests to fund projects to replace or integrate systems.

- Projects should take into account compatibility with statewide or regional communications systems and plans.
- Projects should be compliant with all Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and other pertinent laws and regulations.

Other Category

If the following items are approved, they will not be considered for funding until all other approved items/categories are funded. The following is meant to serve as examples and is not an all inclusive list of “Other” items.

- Power “load” systems (for gurneys)

Items Not Eligible-

Items that are not eligible for consideration in Code Blue include, but are not limited to the following:

- Expendable/disposable items.
- Any equipment that does not have objectively demonstrated medical efficacy. Items of questionable efficacy may be referred to the Medical Direction Committee for their opinion.
- Replacement or maintenance of existing state communications equipment, including repeaters.
- Communication towers
- Extrication Equipment
- Fire Suppression Equipment
- Personal Protective Equipment - clothing or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury or infection.
- Office or administrative equipment or software such as fax machines, copiers, computers, conventional computer software, office furniture, etc. (Note that certain training-specific computer equipment and software may be approved for funding)
- Emergency generators
- Permanent buildings, such as fire and ambulance buildings
- Equipment beyond the state-certified or first responder Scope of Practice of the community’s pre-clinical EMS providers or EMS services as defined in current state regulations
- Items needed for any Expanded Scope of Practice that requires approval by the state
- Public Access AED - an AED intended for the use of bystanders as opposed to organized EMS responders or agencies.
- Aircraft – fixed and rotor wing

Note: *Eligibility exclusions may change based on changing standards of practice, the assessment of whether items are essential within the equipment categories described above, whether the items have similarly effective alternatives, or on the basis of review of their medical efficacy by the Code Blue Steering Committee or Medical Direction Committee.*

Items Approved but Not Funded

At the discretion of the Code Blue Steering Committee, items may be approved as an essential, but not funded with State Code Blue funds due to funding limitations and other factors. If an item is approved but not funded, “Code Blue Approved” could be used by a community in support of funding from another source.

Note: *Funding exclusions may change based on changing standards of practice, the assessment of whether items are essential within the equipment categories described above, whether the items have similarly*

effective alternatives, or on the basis of review of their medical efficacy by the Steering Committee or Medical Direction Committee.

Used Equipment

- Used and refurbished vehicles and equipment may be requested and considered by the Steering Committee and if approved, may be funded at the same priority and amount as new vehicles and equipment in the same class or category, with the same life expectancy required.
- Although approved and prioritized by the Steering Committee, actual funding of any Code Blue item is dependent on funders’ rules concerning purchasing of used equipment.

Equipment Longevity and Replacement

Type of Equipment	Minimum Expected Longevity/Depreciation Years*
Ambulance and other patient transport vehicle including boat - anything other than ATV or snowmachine.	10 years from model year of chassis
Used ambulance and other patient transport vehicle including boat - anything other than ATV or snowmachine.	5 years
Snowmachine, ATV and associated sleds, trailers, etc.	4 years
Diagnostic / Patient Monitoring Equipment such as “ Propaq” type devices, cardiac monitor/defibrillators, etc.	5 years. Note: technical and “best practice” changes may make this equipment obsolete before this time. The Steering Committee may take this into consideration.
All other Code Blue categories	Determined on a case by case basis using criteria such as usage, technical and system changes, etc.

**Some funding agencies may have differing depreciation schedules*

Communities receiving Code Blue items must maintain an inventory of equipment to verify condition and location up to it’s full term of depreciable life. Once removed from service/inventory, all Code Blue decals must be removed.

Acknowledgement of Funders

All vehicles and other equipment purchased through the Code Blue program will have decals acknowledging the funding sources and the Code Blue program. The following decal, or something that has the same information, should be sized appropriately, edited to reflect the region and actual funding sources and used whenever practical:



IV. APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

Eligible Organizations: Municipal or non-profit state certified ground ambulance services or first response groups that provide service to the general public and are recognized by the region and Regional Offices.

Minimum Local Match Required: A minimum local match of 10% is required.

Note: Regions may require greater matches.

Additional Funding Requirements: Additional funding must be identified and secured within two years of the notification of State Grant Award.

Funding Caps

Type of Equipment	Funding Cap
Ambulance- new or remount	\$55,000
Used vehicle- Ambulance	\$45,000
Alternative Patient Transport Vehicle (non-ambulance vehicle such as pickup chassis with slide in unit)	\$45,000
Marine Patient Transport (specifically designed boat)	\$15,000
Patient Transport Vehicle replacement– slide in or chassis	\$20,000
Snowmachines, ATVs, sleds, trailers or snowbulances	\$10,000
Gurney (includes power cot system)	\$ 7,000
Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator	\$15,000
Automatic Compression Devices	\$ 7,000
Stair Chair (includes electronic/battery powered)	\$ 1,500

Other temporary and permanent funding caps may be applied as determined by the Steering Committee.

Note: The maximum award amount for any approved patient transport vehicle for non-certified services (organized first responder services) will be limited to the Alternative Patient Transport Vehicle level or lower.

Specific Item Requests Additional Information

- **Used ambulances:** Requests for used ambulances will be evaluated on an individual basis; the requested vehicle in this category must be certified to be in good condition with relatively low mileage.
- **Remounted Vehicles:** When applying for a remount, the agency must provide a letter of certification by a qualified person or maintenance department that the box being remounted is in good condition and warrants a remount to a different vehicle. Remounts must be completed by a factory certified agency. Remounts may not be completed in-house.
- **High Fidelity patient Simulators:** These items will only be funded for Regional EMS agencies.

Evaluation of Requests for Funding

All items considered for inclusion in the Code Blue Database by the Steering Committee must have been reviewed, approved and prioritized by the appropriate regional EMS office using a process which includes both staff of the Regional EMS Office and other subject matter experts identified by the Regional EMS Office to assist in the review process.

All advanced life support (ALS) patient care or training items must have been approved by a physician medical director at the local or regional level.

Requests for funding are evaluated in the following order:

1. By the community's EMS service and medical director (when applicable) that is making the request
2. By the Regional EMS Office
3. By the Steering Committee

The purpose of the review by the community is to ensure items requested for funding under the Code Blue Project are carefully considered and well supported.

The Regional EMS Office review provides an opportunity to review the appropriateness of each request and prioritize regional requests for submission to the Steering Committee. In most circumstances, the review at the regional level is performed or overseen by the Board of Directors, and may include subject matter experts given the responsibility and authority to review requests. The Steering Committee considers only those requests supported at the regional level.

The Steering Committee uses the following criteria to evaluate requests for funding. Consequently, these factors should also be employed at the community and regional levels.

- Documentation of Need
- Rationale
- Preparation
- Sustainability
- Integration with equipment used by community
- Cost
- Community Support
- Compliance with EMS Regulations, or other Planning documents

These factors are explained in more detail in the *Code Blue Items Assessment Sheet* (Appendix 1), used to help focus discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of individual requests.

Relative Rankings

Funding will be prioritized by equipment category in the following order:

1. Patient Care
2. Training
3. Transportation
4. Communications
5. Other

Then funding may be prioritized by:

A. Service type in the following order:

1. Volunteer EMS (certified ambulance or organized first responder service- *(see appendix for definition)*)
 - a. Transporting
 - b. Non-Transporting
2. Paid or partially paid EMS (certified ambulance or organized first responder service)
 - a. Transporting
 - b. Non-Transporting

3. Clinics
 - a. Health Aide
 - b. Mid-Level
4. Other agencies which provide EMS

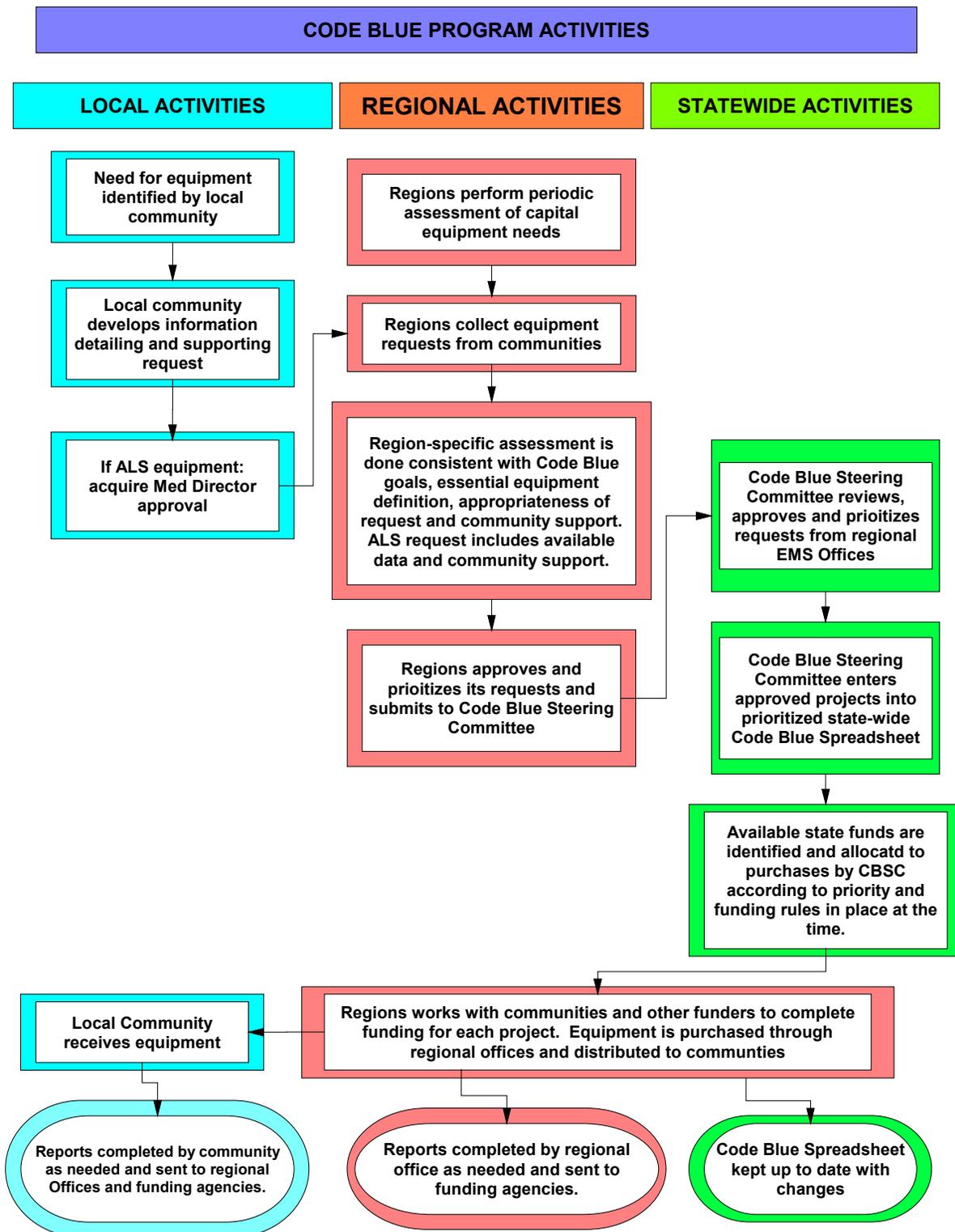
OR

B. Level of care

1. BLS
2. ALS

Code Blue Activity Flow Chart

The following chart depicts the flow of the Code Blue Project from identification of need through reporting. The Steering Committee sets the deadlines for submission of information to the Steering Committee and each region sets a timeline and procedures within their own region to accomplish this.



V. CHANGES AND FUNDING REALLOCATIONS

Requesting Changes of Approved Items

Any deviation from approved items requires written approval by the Steering Committee. Requests should be submitted to the Chair, the Chair will determine if it needs approval by the Steering Committee. The approval will be acquired either by teleconference, email or face-to-face meeting, as determined by the Chair.

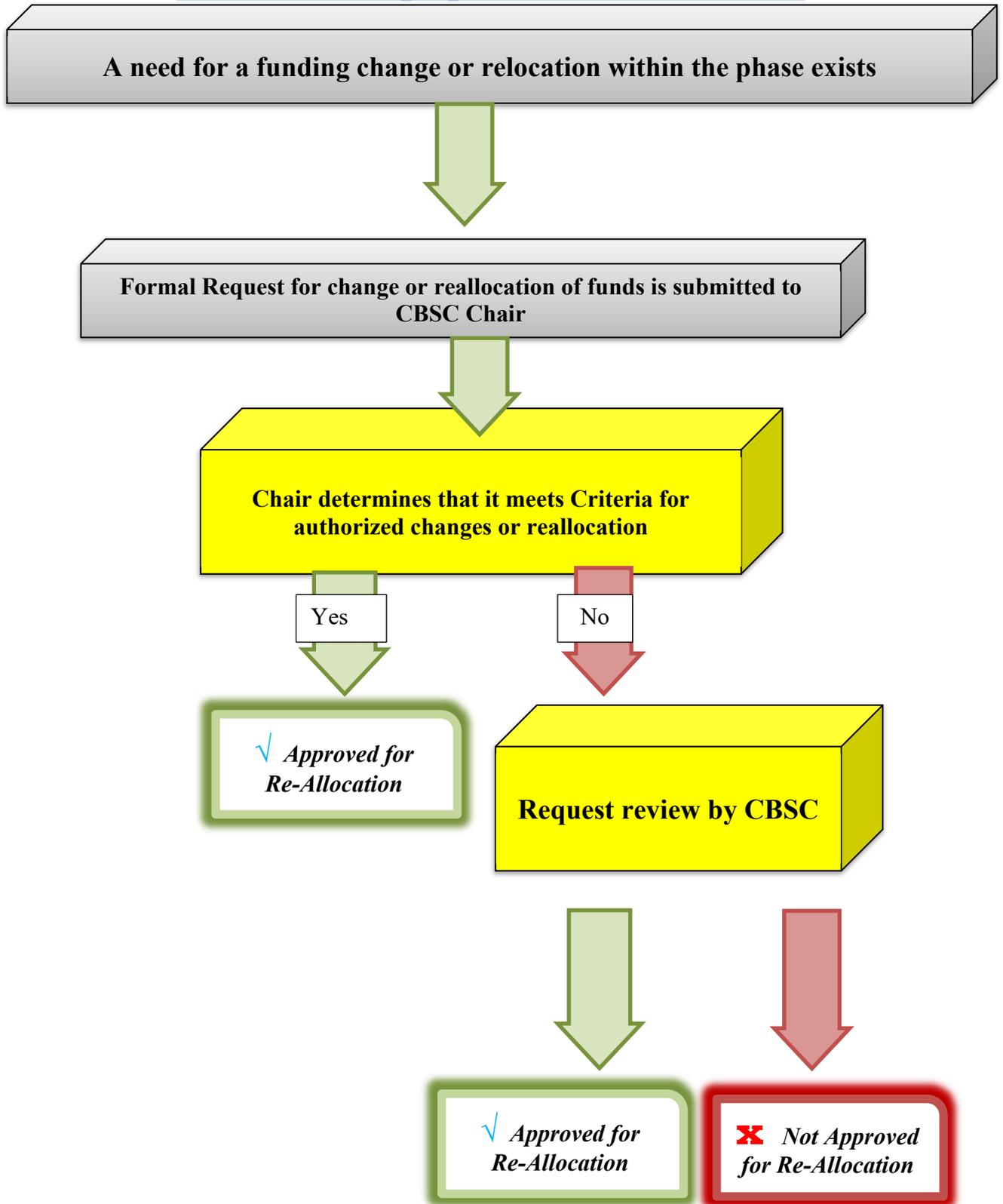
It is important to note that state Code Blue funds are granted by the Department of Health and Social Services to purchase items detailed in the Notification of Grant Award. ***Any changes in the use of funds proposed by the grantee must follow applicable state regulations and guidelines in addition to the above approval by the Steering Committee.***

Steering Committee Reallocation of Funds

The following policies apply to State Code Blue funds and also pertain to Steering Committee approval and endorsement of changes to projects involving non-state funds. Additional administrative procedures required by the granting agencies may be required.

- When all approved projects for a region in a certain phase are completed, that phase is considered to be completed for that region. Any funds remaining after completion of all approved projects must be returned or otherwise made available for allocation in future Steering Committee project reviews. A region may not add additional projects to that phase except for the following two exceptions:
 - If a region finds that an approved project within a certain phase is no longer needed for any reason, the region may request a substitution for that project in that phase within the budget of the approved original item. The item can not exceed any applicable funding cap for that phase. Decisions on such substitutions will follow the Code Blue Equipment Re-Allocation Flow Chart.
 - If a region finds that a certain project is necessary before the next Code Blue phase, it may be considered for funding. This request must follow the Code Blue Steering Committee Re-Allocation process.
- State funding approved for a region in a certain phase cannot be used in a different phase. If those funds aren't needed to complete that phase's approved projects, the funds must be returned or otherwise made available for allocation in future Steering Committee project review.
- The Steering Committee must be notified of all State Code Blue funding changes within a phase.

Code Blue Equipment Re-Allocation



VI. APPLYING FOR FUNDS, PURCHASING AND REPORTING

Grants from the State of Alaska

All grants for Code Blue funds from the State of Alaska must follow applicable state regulations, procedures and guidelines when applying for funds, purchasing and reporting. Currently these funds are overseen by the Office of EMS and managed by the Facilities Section. Funding recipients should remain familiar with current administrative procedures and oversight. Reports to the State are due quarterly. Details are available in the grant documents.

State grant guidelines for the use of State Code Blue funds are:

- State Code Blue Grant funds are to be used for purchasing essential EMS capital equipment approved by the Steering Committee.
- These funds must be used to match local funding or other non-State of Alaska funds.
- Photographs must accompany grant request for reimbursement.
- Failure to provide quarterly reports, or providing late reports results in being out of compliance with the State Grant Award which may result in a loss of future Code Blue funding and/or result in a reallocation of awarded funds by the Code Blue Steering Committee.

Other Funders

Each grantee should become familiar with and follow the guidelines and procedures when applying for funds, purchasing and reporting for each funding source involved.

Photographs

Digital photographs must be taken of all items purchased with Code Blue funds, and some funding sources may require specific photographs. The following types of photographs can be particularly useful in maintaining and securing additional funding:

- Before and after photographs of upgraded equipment;
- Code Blue equipment being delivered to, or received by, the community;
- Code Blue equipment in use.

(Note that individuals included in these photographs must provide a written release, to the region, acknowledging the intended use of the photograph.)

Appendix 1: Item Assessment Guide

Criterion	NOT CONSIDERED		<-<-<-<- <i>Less Favorable</i> <-<- CONSIDERED ->-> <i>More Favorable</i> ->->->		
Documentation of Need	Equipment is known to be unnecessary or duplicative.	No evidence of need provided.	Requesting agency minimally documented need.	Requesting agency adequately documented need for equipment, including support from physician medical director or local EMS board.	Multiple agencies strongly support need for this equipment, including support from physician medical director or local EMS board. Evidence that this is the most cost effective solution to problem.
Rationale	None Provided		New Equipment		Replacement Equipment
Preparation	No EMS personnel exist to make use of equipment or EMS personnel are not legally authorized, e.g. certified, to use the device.	EMS personnel have not been trained but have a documented and reasonable plan to obtain the necessary training.	Basic training has been provided and documented.	Basic training has been provided on the use of equipment and has been adequately documented. Plans for continuing training exist.	Advanced or comprehensive training has been provided on the use of equipment and has been adequately documented. Plans for continuing training exist.
Sustainability	Community is having difficult time sustaining current equipment.	Training on the equipment or equipment historically hard to sustain by community with this characteristics and sustainability plan is not documented.	No Evidence or Minimal	Sustainability of equipment adequately addressed in request.	Community has history of being able to sustain equipment and programs.

Integration with equipment used by community	Item will conflict with equipment known to be in place in community.	Other equipment necessary to make requested equipment effective is not available.	Item will not conflict with equipment already present in community and is consistent with scope of care provided.	Item is well integrated into local emergency response system planning.	Item is well integrated into regional and/or state emergency response system planning.
Cost	No evidence of research and equipment costs seem inappropriate.	No evidence of research into costs.	Evidence of researching costs of item requested	Evidence of researching costs of, and alternatives to, item requested.	Evidence that multiple sources of information were consulted to support the cost effectiveness of the request.
Community Support	There is evidence that the community is opposed to the addition of this equipment.	No letters of support provided.	Letter of support provided by governmental, tribal or other community organization.	Cash match of up to 25% in addition to letter of support provided by governmental, tribal or other community organization.	Cash match of 25% or above in addition to letter of support provided by governmental, tribal or other community organization..
Compliance with EMS Regulations, Goals Document or other Planning Materials	Equipment is not compliant with regulations, e.g. ALS equipment requested for BLS personnel.	Equipment does not appear to be compliant with EMS regulations or EMS Goals Document.	No Evidence or Minimal	Equipment appears to be compliant with EMS regulations or EMS Goals Document.	Goals Document or other planning guides support the need for this equipment for a community with these characteristics.

Appendix 2: Item request template – for consideration for the Code Blue Database

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1													
2	RED: Fields that need to be filled in				CODE BLUE PHASE __				NOTE:				
3	Note: use drop down menus in Equipment Category Field				Region: Interior				FILL IN STATE FUNDING WITH "0"				
4	BLUE: Fields that will automatically fill from formulas				Date: _____				UNTIL ALLOCATION IS MADE AT MEETING				
5	Region	Community	Equipment Category	Equipment Description	QTY	Total Budget	USDA %	USDA Amount	Local Contribution	State Funding Awarded	Other Anticipated Funding	Additional Funding Needed	
6								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
7								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
8								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
9								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
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20								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
21								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
22						\$0		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
23													
24	Category Totals												
25	Patient Care					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
26	Training					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
27	Transportation					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
28	Communications					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
29	Other					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
30	TOTALS - ALL CATEGORIES					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
31													

Appendix 3: History of the Code Blue Program

In the mid-1990’s, Alaska’s Regional EMS Coordinators and Directors (RCD) made the first coordinated and comprehensive attempt to document the critical need for equipment and training in rural Alaska in a paper called “System in Crisis.” It was a thorough and credible document that resulted in some additional funding for the EMS program.

The initial Code Blue document was developed in 1999 by the then Section of Injury Prevention and Emergency Medical Services (currently named the Section of Rural Community Health Systems) and the Regional EMS Offices. This document continued this theme with detailed information on the need for equipment and training, the consequences of not having adequate resources, and basic information on the funding necessary to correct the most egregious problems.

The Code Blue program was therefore founded in an effort to identify, prioritize and seek funding for essential equipment for rural and frontier emergency medical services in Alaska.

The primary focus of the program was, and remains, the rural emergency medical service and the replacement of aging and obsolete equipment for rural emergency medical services agencies. Central to the project was the hypothesis that small and rural EMS agencies that had inadequate resources to provide quality emergency medical care would not only have difficulty recruiting personnel but would be unable to secure funding for essential equipment without a coordinated effort. The Code Blue Project was designed to be long lived, focused on EMS needs and seen by funding agencies as a well constructed means of improving emergency medical care in rural Alaska.

Funding Partners

Through Phase 17 (fiscal year 18), funding for essential equipment has been provided by the:

- State of Alaska
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Rural Development
- Local Match through local services, governments and Native health organizations
- Rasmuson Foundation
- Denali Commission

The Program has been very successful and the efforts of the Code Blue Steering Committee and State of Alaska partners. The combined generosity of funding agencies has resulted in over \$26.7 million of funding for essential equipment through Phase 20:

	USDA Rural Development	State Code Blue	Local Match	Denali Commission	Rasmuson Foundation	TOTALS
Through Phase 10	\$7,643,000	\$4,303,000	\$4,017,000	\$1,561,000	\$1,226,000	\$18,750,000
Phase 11	\$493,000	378,000	272,000	-	-	\$ 1,143,000
Phase 12	238,000	509,000	126,000	-	-	\$ 873,000
Phase 13	-	450,287	252,420	-	-	\$ 702,707
Phase 14	193,282	498,193	205,301	-	-	\$ 896,776
Phase 15	74,009	387,316	219,524	-	-	\$ 680,849
Phase 16	158,250	713,647	603,808	-	-	\$ 1,475,705
Phase 17	30,000	517,536	725,748	-	-	\$ 1,273,283
Phase 18		527,547	446,589	-	-	\$ 974,136
Phase 20		466,160	787,133			\$1,253,294
TOTALS	\$8,829,541	\$8,750,686	\$7,655,523	\$1,561,000	\$1,226,000	\$28,022,751

State of Alaska

Historically, the State of Alaska has provided significant and reliable funding for the Code Blue Project annually through the Governor's Capital Budget and appropriation by the legislature. The EMS Unit has provided oversight of these funds.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

The USDA Rural Development Program has been instrumental in providing major funding to the Code Blue Program. Historically the Regional EMS Offices, rather than the state, have applied for these funds because of their eligibility for this funding as well as their expertise, ability to represent multiple communities, and eligibility.

USDA funds require a non-federal match, which is usually provided by local communities and the State of Alaska. In the initial phases of Code Blue, essential matching funds were provided by the Rasmuson Foundation (see below).

The amount of funding provided by the USDA for an item is based on a formula that determines the "community percentage." Factors in the percentage that have been used by USDA include the community's population, median income, and percent of adults not working. Based on these factors, the USDA will calculate an eligibility of .0, .15, .35, .55 or .75. The percentages are revised periodically as new data become available. When an item is funded through the USDA, no more than 75% of its cost may be paid for with federal funds. Eligibility for this grant has undergone significant changes in the past few years, so it is recommended that applicants contact USDA for updates.

Communities

Each Code Blue project requires local match, and local municipalities, boroughs and non-governmental community organizations, including EMS providers, have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years. Often, even a small 10% match creates hardship for small communities, especially those that are unincorporated or otherwise lack a sufficient tax base. Many times, this difficulty is greatly exacerbated by the fact that some projects, especially ambulances and expensive cardiac equipment, require a much greater match, often 60% or more, because of state Code Blue funding item limits and the unavailability of other funding. This can cause a delay of a year or more and sometimes the community must seek funding directly from the legislature, outside of the Code Blue review process.

Tribal Health Organizations

In some regions, EMS is coordinated by the regional Tribal Health Corporation. In these cases, requests may be generated by the Tribal Health Corporation itself (generally through their EMS department) and local match is provided by the same.

In other regions, the regional Tribal Health organization does not coordinate EMS but might participate in requests from certain communities, or provide local match if needed.

Rasmuson Foundation

The Rasmuson Foundation is an Anchorage-based private philanthropic organization. The Foundation invests in non-profit organizations to improve the quality of life in Alaska. It was a critical and major partner in helping complete the initial phase of the Code Blue Project, in which ambulances, other patient transport

vehicles and other expensive equipment were purchased. The Foundation has well documented procedures for applying for funding on its web site.

Denali Commission

The Denali Commission is a federal/state partnership that is designed to provide critical infrastructure, and economic support throughout Alaska. In the past, it funded such EMS infrastructure as communications and 911 system infrastructure upgrades. Some patient care equipment, such as ambulance gurneys and splints have been considered infrastructure and funded by the Commission. Code Blue funds allocated by the Denali Commission was administered by the EMS Unit. They are considered federal funds for the purposes of this project. Over the past several years priority for this funding has not included EMS.



ALASKA'S CODE BLUE STEERING COMMITTEE

Photo Release Form

Participant's name: _____

I hereby authorize the Code Blue Steering Committee (CBSC) to publish the photographs taken of me, and name, for use in the CBSC printed publications and displays.

I acknowledge that since my participation in publications and displays produced by CBSC is voluntary, I will receive no financial compensation.

I further agree that my participation in any publication and display produced by CBSC confers upon me no rights of ownership whatsoever. I release CBSC and its members from liability for any claims me or any third party in connection with my participation.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Appendix 5: First Responder Service Definition

Approved October 2, 2013:

First Responder Service Definition:

Organized First Responder Service

Transporting and Non-Transporting

1. Have an established chain of command
2. Have a method of activating the responders
3. Administrative Support
4. Have an established organization for oversight
5. Have established Guidelines to follow
6. Have a roster of a minimum of three responders trained to the ETT level or higher
7. Maintain a minimum inventory of supplies and equipment per the Recommended Supplies and Equipment List for First Responder Services
8. Must complete an annual supplies / equipment survey
9. Must complete an annual First Responder Service survey
10. Respond with a minimum of one responder trained at the ETT level or higher and one driver or assistant

Unorganized First Responder Service

Transporting and Non-Transporting

Does not meet the minimum criteria for an Organized First Responder Service