



INTERIOR REGION EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL, INC.

2503 18th Avenue • Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
Phone (907) 456-3978 • Fax (907) 456-3970

February 28, 2025

Interior Region EMS Agency or Service:

The application period for Phase 25 (FY26) of the Code Blue grant program is now open. All recognized EMS agencies/services in Interior Alaska are welcome to apply for Code Blue equipment funding.

The enclosed forms must be completed and returned to the IREMSC office by **March 31st, 2025** in order for the application to be considered. Completed forms will be accepted by mail or email. Fillable forms are available on the IREMSC website under Grants and Resources > Grants > Code Blue Projects.

Application packets must include a completed Capital Equipment Request form for each item type (i.e., three vacuum splints should be requested on the same form, while a vacuum splint and a training manikin require separate forms.)

Application packets must also include at least one letter of support from the community. You may submit one letter for each item requested or list each item requested in a single letter, but support should be expressed for the individual item(s) and for the Alaska Code Blue Program, in addition to providing insight on how the equipment will benefit the community.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact our Fiscal & Business Operations Manager, Adrielle Jones, at (907) 456-3978 or by email at accounting@iremsc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Paulson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Brad Paulson
Executive
Director

Enclosed:

- Capital Equipment/Code Blue Guidelines
- Code Blue Application Checklist
- Code Blue Pamphlet
- Code Blue EMS Equipment Request Form
- Calendar Year 2024 Ambulance Survey



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APPLICATION PERIOD NOW OPEN FOR CODE BLUE FY2026

DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 31, 2025

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? Interior Region EMS Council (IREMSC) and the Code Blue project would like to help. It's time again for us to open the application period for the Code Blue grant project. If your service has equipment needs that fit the program criteria, this program may 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 have come together in a powerful partnership to help emergency medical services. The Code Blue project has helped many communities to replace worn out or aging equipment.

Struggling volunteer services have received new equipment they might never have been able to afford. We have had good success with a variety of funding sources. over the past two decades. 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.

Your region's EMS Council is a strong advocate for you and your emergency medical service. We work very hard to get approved projects funded. You can begin with the included application.

Eligibility

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 regional offices.

Let's Get Started..

You can apply for one or multiple items, each on its own page. ***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.

To begin, you'll need to put your request together using the included form.

- Be sure to complete ***all*** the information requested.
- Follow the Application instructions.
- Please type (***OR PRINT CLEARLY***) 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.

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. *It's important to understand that you will have two years from the date your funding is released (not the date you apply) to provide the match.* Extenuating circumstances that delay this will require a letter from you to the Code Blue Steering Committee.

The Application

Simply complete the enclosed Code Blue Equipment Request Form to apply. 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 us at Interior Region EMS Council **no later than March 31, 2025.**

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 include that in your justification. These will be shared with your legislators and will add credibility to your local government's requests, and vice versa.

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. If you have questions about what may or may not be eligible (or any other question), just contact us at (907) 456-3978.

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.
- 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.

Vehicle Requests

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

1. The vehicle will be titled to the service or community, and IREMSC will be a lienholder on the title. The title will be held by IREMSC.
2. You will be required to maintain Full insurance coverage to include liability, comprehensive and collision. If the vehicle has USDA funding, full coverage insurance is required until the vehicle is valued at less than \$5,000. IREMSC and the USDA must be listed as additional loss payees on the policy. The insurance will also hold harmless IREMSC, USDA (if applicable), and the State of Alaska.
3. Proof of insurance must be provided to IREMSC 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 ongoing maintenance of the vehicle.
9. IREMSC 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 IREMSC or the Code Blue Steering Committee.

The Review Process

Once your application/s are submitted we will work to help you make sure that your application is complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

IREMSC considers each request in detail and makes recommendations to the full Board of Directors. Approved items will become part of the Interior 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 or funded for that final statewide list.

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

1. Your Medical Director, if applicable
2. IREMSC Staff
3. IREMSC Board of Directors
4. Code Blue State Steering Committee
5. State EMS Office Staff
6. Other Funding Agencies (if applicable)



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Application Checklist - Code Blue Fiscal Year 2026

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, catalog page with the item circled, or other documentation for the item cost. *If your project is approved, funding will not be available for up to one year later, so let your vendors know to give you a quote that may include increased rates.*
- 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. The minimum local match is 10% for all requests.
- Include letter(s) of support from your agency, local businesses, local government, etc.
- Obtain **ALL REQUIRED SIGNATURES**, EMS Agency Representative, Local EMS Medical Director, and if applicable, the Subregion EMS Coordinator **BEFORE** the request is submitted to IREMSC. Requests received without proper signatures **cannot** be considered until complete.

Contact Interior Region at (907) 456-3978 if you have questions or for assistance. On your request, we will gladly look over your application ahead of time, and give you feedback.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT IS March 31, 2025

Shipping Information

Please don't forget to include how you want the item shipped and shipping costs.

You are required to provide PHOTOS of equipment upon receipt.



Thank you for your help & time with this matter your input is appreciated!

Please read this pamphlet before completing your Capital Equipment/ code blue forms.

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Phone: 907-456-3978 Fax: 907-456-3970
Email: accounting@iremsc.org

Capital Equipment/ Code Blue Guidelines



Please read this pamphlet before completing your Capital Equipment/ code blue forms.

You are responsible for knowing all information in this pamphlet.

*Please Note:
Completing this application is not a guarantee that you will receive the items requested. There is a rigorous approval process at both the regional and state level before funding is allocated.*

Capital Equipment/ Code Blue Guidelines

Please use these guidelines to help you through the steps needed to complete the capital equipment request form properly.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure or process please do not hesitate to call Adrielle Jones, FBOM at 907-456-3978

Important points to remember.

Equipment Only

Code Blue Funding is for equipment ONLY. Training or expendable items such as supplies are not eligible.

List items that are \$300.00 or over.

That is each item individually must be \$300.00 for example:
4 backboards \$100.00 each Total of \$400.00
does not qualify

Matching funds are required.

Please note that your squad will be required to come up with at least a 10% match for all items requested. There is a possibility that your squad may have to come up with more funds if necessary.

Letters of support from your community.

Please include letters of support from your local community (i.e. Health clinic, Tribal Council, City or municipality.) ***This letter MUST also include a statement of support for the Alaska Code Blue program.***

Be sure to include your justification.

In your own words describe why your squad needs the item and how it would help with your service. Please be specific and use as much detail as possible. If you do not include a justification with your request then that item will be disqualified from your request.

All Code Blue requests will be reviewed and prioritized by the IREMSC Board. Statewide priorities for funding will also be set. Your justification and need are very important

Include any item that your squad needs (items over \$300). This includes anything from oxygen systems to ambulances, boats, etc. There is no price cutoff so if your squad does a lot of off-road rescue add that snow machine your squad has needed but can't afford.

Don't forget shipping & handling!

Don't forget to add shipping and handling to your items. If your request gets funded either you will not get as many items requested or you will have to pay the overage.

Be as specific as possible

List the name brand, model number, quantity, whether you will accept a substitute and specifications (size, type, style, etc.). Please include the item quote, catalog, website page etc.. Make a copy of the page and send it with your request.

Make sure to prioritize your items.

This ensures that we know what is most needed by your squad and this is taken into consideration when critical decisions are made.

Only one item can be prioritized 1, 2, 3 etc.

Please have your physician sponsor sign your form. Your physician sponsor must sign the form otherwise your request will be disqualified.
(Particularly if the item is for ALS care.)

Make sure your form is COMPLETE:

Be sure to include prices for the item and shipping and handling, if it applies. If the form is not filled out completely your request may not be considered. **REQUEST AN INFLATED QUOTE AS FUNDING CAN TAKE UP TO 12 MONTHS OR MORE.**

Please send in your updates by the deadline.

I know everyone is busy and that this is just another piece of paperwork. Replying by the deadline makes sure that your update gets entered into the database to be shared with possible funding sources.

Code Blue Funding Limits:

Although these limits may change, current State Code Blue Funding limits are:
Ambulance / Patient Transport Vehicle (NEW/REMOUNT): \$50,000
Monitor/Defibrillator: \$15,000
Patient Transport Boat: \$15,000
Gurney : \$7,000

WE DO APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORT.

This is an important process. We need to keep our records up-to-date in case we find a grant that may fit your squads needs. This saves you the hassle of a hurried attempt at assessing your squad's current needs.

In the past few years, we have received over 2 million dollars for Interior Code Blue projects. There is no guarantee of future funding, but we are optimistic that support will continue.

Please continue your support of our efforts to get you new equipment by following these guidelines and replying by the deadlines.

Thank you for your time and we hope this pamphlet has been helpful.

Please read this pamphlet before completing your Capital Equipment/ Code Blue forms. You are responsible for knowing all information in this.

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Phone: 907-456-3978 Fax: 907-456-3970
Email: accounting@iremsc.org



Interior Region EMS Council Code Blue EMS Equipment Request Form



EMS Agency Name:	Contact Person:	Email Address:
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Mailing Address:	Physical Shipping Address:	Phone Number:	Fax Number:
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PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY - ONE ITEM PER FORM - INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Model	Equipment Description	Unit Cost	Quantity	Shipping	Total	*Priority	Quotes Attached? Y/N

Local Match Amount	Guaranteed By Whom	Match Letter Included
		A letter guaranteeing the required local match MUST be submitted with this request form.

Justification (Patient Transport Vehicle requests must include complete shipping plan and estimate. Attach additional sheets as needed)	New or Replaced Equipment?
	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement

Maintenance Plan / Training Plan (Attach additional sheet if needed)

From the “Notice of [grant] Award”, I have up to 24 months to secure funding for this project.

NOTE: Code Blue Steering Committee will consider granting an extension under special circumstances. Letter of request for extension must include:

- Official letter of request
- Addressed to Code Blue Steering Committee
- Justification for extension
- Plan for completion
- Signed by the agency representative
- Must receive letter prior to funding deadline

*Signature & Printed Name of EMS Agency Medical Director	*Date
*Signature & Printed Name of Subregion Coordinator	*Date

*Signature & Printed Name of EMS Agency Representative	Date
Signature & Printed Name of Regional EMS Director	Date

* Complete this Section if Applicable

Revised OCT 2024



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ANNUAL INTERIOR REGION EMS SURVEY

Reporting Year: _____

YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THIS FORM IF YOU RECEIVED A MINI-GRANT, ARE APPLYING FOR A MINI-GRANT OR ARE SUBMITTING A REQUEST FOR CODE BLUE FUNDS

Eligibility for mini-grants, Code Blue/Capital Equipment & other grants is dependent on this survey being submitted by the deadline.

This form is available online at www.iremsc.org

Name of Service: _____

Leader / Head of Service: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Name & Title of Person Completing Survey: _____

This EMS survey will provide basic data about the EMS systems within the Interior Region. The data will be used for local, regional, and statewide planning and evaluation, grant applications, improving training, and other EMS program related aspects and funding requests. Both ground ambulance and first responder services are included in this survey.

This survey is critical to help capture data from services that are not reported to the state's AURORA electronic data system and to include first responder service data into our regional EMS response statistics.

If your service is currently collecting prehospital data electronically, you may attach an AURORA summary report in place of questions 2-4 in Section B (Patient Encounters) that includes the information requested in these questions.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this important survey. To submit the survey, email, mail, or fax

to: Email Address: admin@iremsc.org with the subject *IREMSC EMS Survey*.

Mailing Address: 2503 18th Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99709

Fax: 907-456-3970

A. Service Information

1. Are you an Alaska Certified EMS Service? Yes No

2. List the number of personnel you have in your service, their provider level, and if they are paid or volunteer. For "other" list all other personnel such as drivers, assistants, trained ETT and First Responders, etc. (attach a separate list if needed).

Type of Provider	Number of Paid Providers (salary or wage)	Number of Unpaid Volunteer Providers	Number of Pay/Run or Stipend Volunteer Providers
ETT			
EMT1			
EMT2			
EMT3			
Paramedic			
Other (describe)			

3. Please check all types of communication used for emergency response by your service:

Cell Phone Telephone Marine VHF VHF
 ALMR Satellite Phone Sat Phone Number _____
 HAM Radio Other (please detail) _____

4. Does your agency have access to the internet? Yes No

If yes, please list the following information about your primary internet access:

Location: _____ (EMS station, fire station, clinic, community center, squad member's home, etc.)

Internet Access Type: Satellite Cable DSL Dial-up

5. Does your service fill out a pre-hospital patient care report (run sheet/PCR) for every patient you treat?

Yes No

6. Do you provide a completed run sheet/PCR to the receiving provider or facility?

(clinic, hospital, medevac team)

Yes No

7. Are you using the State of Alaska AURORA EMS data system and electronic run sheet/PCR?

Yes No

If you selected no, do you plan to participate in the AURORA EMSdata system? Yes No

If you selected yes, do you need training in the AURORA EMSData system? Yes No

8. Does your service routinely receive information on patient outcomes? Yes No

9. Does your service do run reviews? Yes No

If yes, how often: _____

10. What is the emergency contact number or system in your community?
 911 Other (please detail) _____

11. How do you call out your responders? _____

12. Does your service meet for EMS training? Yes No

If yes, how often does your service meet for training? _____

13. Do you maintain responder training records? Yes No

14. What training does your service have difficulty obtaining?
CPR ETT ETT-EMT-1 Bridge EMT-1
EMT-2 EMT-3 EMT or ETT Refresher Pediatric

Continuing medical education/ CME

Other (please list): _____

How can IRESMC assist you in meeting this challenge? _____

15. How do you get a patient from your community to a higher level of care? Check all that apply:

Personal Vehicle Commercial Airplane Medevac

Ambulance Model year _____

EMS Transport Vehicle Model year _____ Transfer to another EMS Agency

Other Please List: _____

B. Patient Encounters/Patient Statistics

1. Did your service submit data to AURORA for the entire 2024 Calendar year? Yes No

If yes, you do not need to fill out questions 2 – 4; however, you must attach a summary report which contains the following information:

- Number of EMS responses, including standbys, false alarms, or canceled calls
- Number of patients evaluated, treated, and/or transported
- Age range of patients: < 1 year; 1-14 years; 15 and up
- Chief complaint information on patients included above.

2. How often did your service respond to an EMS call, including patient care standbys, false alarms, refusals, or canceled runs, between January 1, 2024- December 31, 2024?

Total number of responses _____

3. How many EMS patients were evaluated, treated, or transported by your service during 2024?

Total number of patients: _____

Number of patients: Less than one year _____ 1 – 14 years _____ 15 and up _____

4. List the number of patient contacts by the patient's primary medical problem or injury below. List at least one per patient.

	Altered Level of Consciousness
	Abdominal Pain/Problems
	Allergic Reaction
	Burns
	Cardiac Arrest
	Chest Pain/Discomfort
	Deceased – No Treatment
	Diabetic
	Drowning
	Frostbite
	General Illness
	Hypothermia
	Multi System Trauma

	OB/Pregnancy
	Respiratory Arrest
	Respiratory Distress
	Seizure
	Slip/Trip/Falls
	Smoke Inhalation
	Suspected Drug/Substance Abuse
	Suspected Alcohol Use
	Suspected Poisoning
	Stroke
	Other (please list):

ALASKA'S CODE BLUE STEERING COMMITTEE



The Alaska Code Blue Project Manual

Steering Committee Policies & Procedures

July 19, 2010

Updated October, 2010

Updated March, 2011

Updated January, 2012

Updated October, 2013

Updated October, 2014

Updated October, 2015

Updated October, 2016

Updated October, 2017

Updated September, 2019

Updated October 8, 2020

Updated September 23, 2021

Updated September 13, 2022

Updated August 15, 2023

Updating October 2024

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I. PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

The Code Blue Project was started in 1999. Its purpose 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 EMS regions. 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 are:

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/Alaska 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.
 - At the discretion of the Chair, the roles and responsibilities of Vice Chair and Secretary may be combined.
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 the 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 twice per year, or more as necessary, to ensure the continuity of the program and conduct business. In general, 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 usable 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 Project 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 Spreadsheet.
 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 Spreadsheet.

The State of Alaska EMS Office

The Alaska EMS Office is an active participant in Steering Committee activities. The Alaska EMS Office 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 scope of practice 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 scope of practice 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 Spreadsheet 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 hardware equipment used for collecting and communicating electronic medical records, images, etc. are in this category. Powerload systems for powerload gurneys.

* 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.
- Slide in unit must be assembled to PTV before shipping 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 and interoperability 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 not purposed for pre-hospital patient care.
- 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 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 and refurbished vehicles including boats - 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 Project will have decals acknowledging the funding sources and the Code Blue Project. 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 the State Grant Award. If additional funding is not secured then funds will be revoked for that project. NOTE: Code Blue Steering Committee will consider granting an extension under special circumstances.

Funding Caps

Type of Equipment	Funding Cap
Ambulance- new, used or remount Alternative Patient Transport Vehicle (non-ambulance vehicle such as pickup chassis with slide in unit)	\$50,000
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)	\$ 7,000
Power cot loading system	\$10,000
Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator	\$15,000
Automatic Compression Devices	\$ 7,000
Patient simulators	\$15,000
Stair Chair (includes electronic/battery powered)	\$ 1,500

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

Specific Item Requests Additional Information

- **Used vehicles:** Requests for used vehicles 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 ambulance:** 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 Offices.

Evaluation of Requests for Funding

All items considered for inclusion in the Code Blue Spreadsheet 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 be 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
 - i.e. Documented training and maintenance plans
- 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. Advanced Practice Provider

4. Other agencies which provide EMS

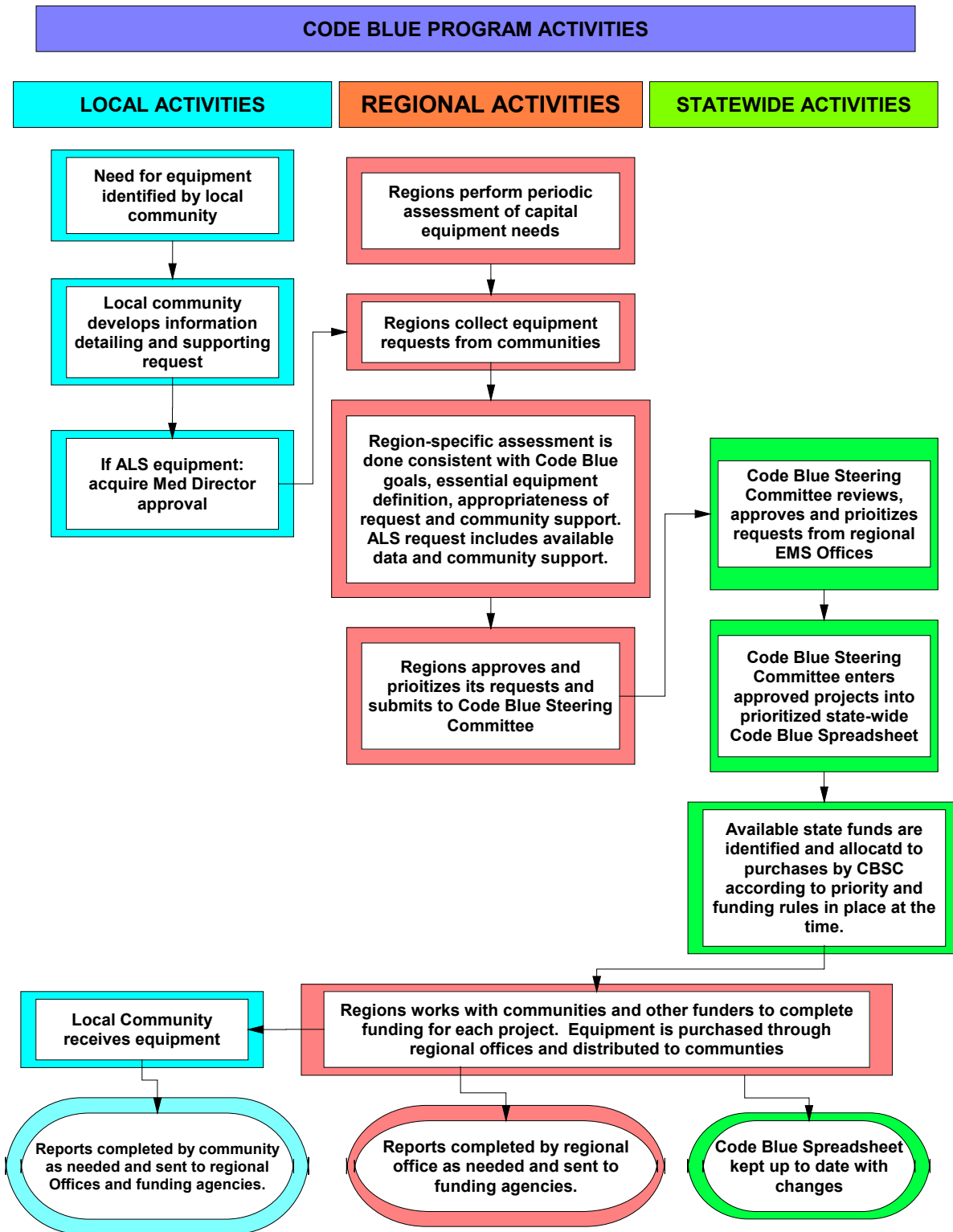
OR

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.

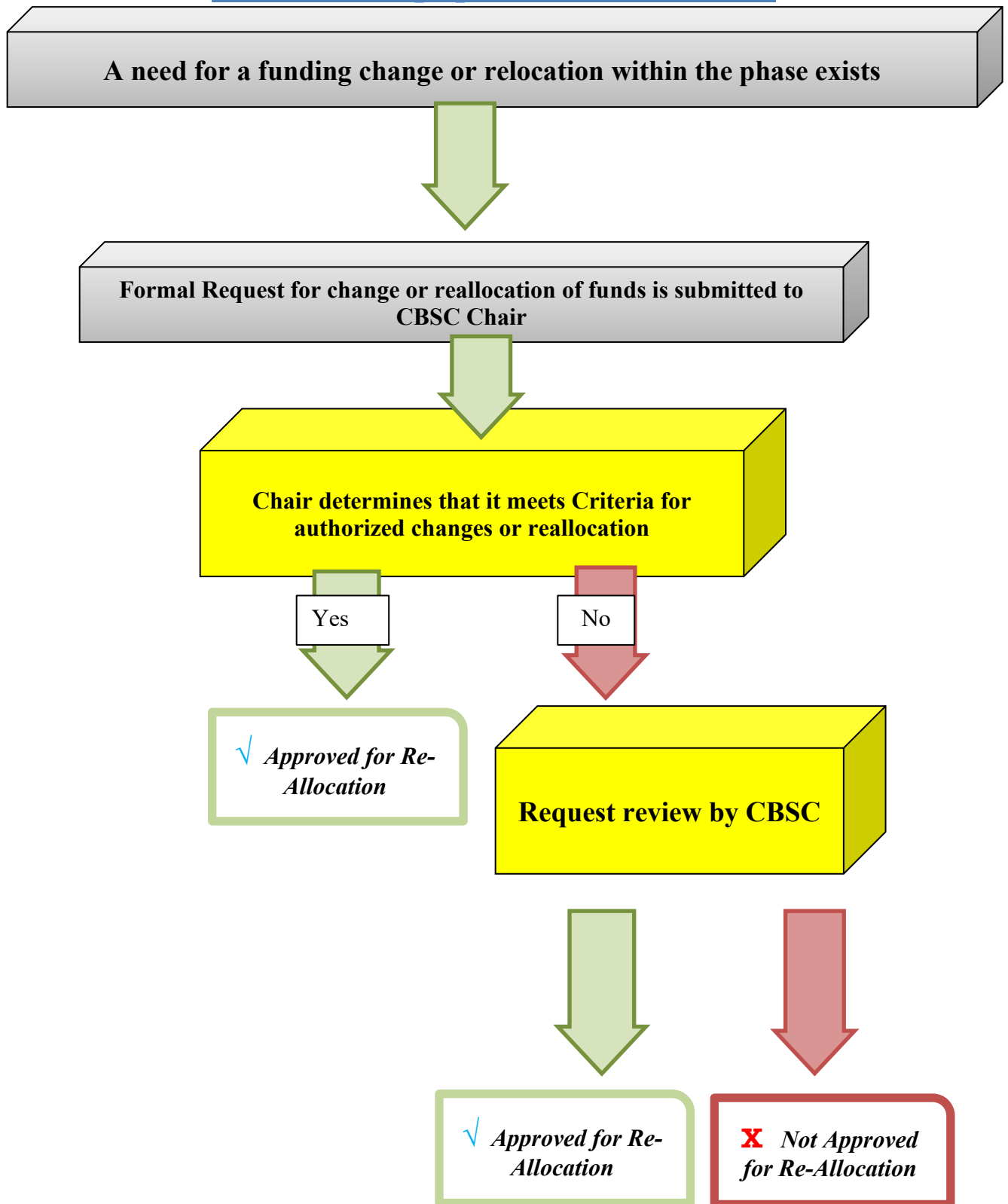
It is important to note that state Code Blue funds are granted by the Department of Health to purchase items detailed in the Notification of Grant Award. ***Any changes in the use of funds proposed by the grantee must follow applicable state regulations and guidelines in addition to the above approval 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.
- Approved re-allocation requests are then shared with Granting Agencies.

Code Blue Equipment Re-Allocation



VI. EMS REGIONS 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. 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 requests 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 and do not have a documented and reasonable plan to obtain the necessary training.	Basic training has been provided and documented. Or Have a documented and reasonable plan to obtain the necessary training.	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 greater than 10% local match. AND 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.
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Appendix 2: Item request template – for consideration for the Code Blue Spreadsheet

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1													
2	CODE BLUE PHASE __								NOTE:				
3	RED: Fields that need to be filled in								FILL IN STATE FUNDING WITH "0"				
4	Note: use drop down menus in Equipment Category Field								UNTIL ALLOCATION IS MADE AT MEETING				
5	BLUE: Fields that will automatically fill from formulas												
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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 Project

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 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.



Left to Right: Mike Owens, Norton Sound; Matt Anderson, State of Alaska; Ronni Sullivan, SREMSC; Barbara Simonsen, ACEMS; Karen Perdue, DHSS Commissioner; Jeff Staser, Denali Commission; Ed Rasmussen, Rasmussen Foundation; Bobbi Leichty, SEREMS; Dan Johnson, IREMS; Dana Hall, YKHC; Merlaine Kruse, USDA; Diane Kaplan, Rasmussen Foundation.

The Code Blue Project 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

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 tribal health organizations
- Rasmuson Foundation
- Denali Commission

The program has been very successful due to the efforts of the Code Blue Steering Committee and State of Alaska partners. The combined generosity of funding agencies has resulted in over \$33.3 million of funding for essential equipment through State Fiscal Year 2024:

State Fiscal Year	State Code Blue	Local Match	USDA Rural Development	Denali Commission	Rasmuson Foundation	Total
2000 - 2011	\$4,303,000	\$4,017,000	\$7,643,000	\$1,561,000	\$1,226,000	\$18,750,000
2012	\$378,000	\$272,000	\$493,000			\$1,143,000
2013	\$509,000	\$126,000	\$238,000			\$873,000
2014	\$450,287	\$252,420				\$702,707
2015	\$498,193	\$205,301	\$193,282			\$896,776
2016	\$387,316	\$219,524	\$74,009			\$680,849
2017	\$713,647	\$603,808	\$158,250			\$1,475,705
2018	\$517,536	\$725,748	\$30,000			\$1,273,284
2019	\$527,547	\$446,589				\$974,136
2020	\$515,179	\$1,350,869				\$1,866,048
2021	\$466,160	\$787,133				\$1,253,293
2022	\$587,240	\$523,448				\$1,110,688
2023	\$442,232	\$522,344				\$964,575
2024	\$597,058	\$801,601				\$1,398,660
	\$10,892,394	\$10,853,785	\$8,829,541	\$1,561,000	\$1,226,000	\$33,362,721

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 Alaska EMS Office 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 Project. 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 required 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).

Communities

Each Code Blue project requires a local match, and local municipalities, boroughs and non-governmental community organizations, including EMS providers, have contributed millions of dollars over the years. Often, even a small 10% match can create 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 Organization. In these cases, requests may be generated by the Tribal Health Organization 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 Alaska EMS Office. 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

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