



Emergency Medical Services
301 University Ridge Suite 1100
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(864) 467-7005
www.greenvillecounty.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Greenville County Finance Committee
From: Tom Blackwell, MD
Executive Director, Greenville County EMS
RE: Greenville Women Giving Grant Application
Date November 8, 2021

Organization Details

Greenville County Emergency Medical Services is the provider for all 9-1-1 requests for emergency medical care and transport covering 795 square miles and serving a population of over 525,534 citizens and visitors. In 2020, the department received 65,146 requests for service that resulted in 96,344 responses and 47,179 transports to local hospitals. Greenville County EMS also provides medical coverage for mass gathering special events such as Fall for Greenville, Artisphere, Greenville Poinsettia Christmas Parade, and local concerts. The department's mission is "Excellence in prehospital healthcare for Greenville County through service, innovation, and leadership." The vision is "To serve the community as a high performance system with dedicated and committed employees." The Executive Director has been leading the organization since January, 2019. Prior to this, he was the Assistant Dean at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville and Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Greenville Health System.

Grant Details

Greenville County EMS provides stand-by coverage and emergency medical care for those attending mass gathering events throughout the County, specifically in the City of Greenville's downtown area, but does so only on the periphery of the event venue. When calls for service are received and given our current configuration, ambulances and personnel attempting to respond to and quickly care for patients unexpectedly ill or injured in the midst of a populated venue poses significant risk to the public, prolongs our response time to care for patients when needed, and negatively impacts our ability to extract patients when hospital transport is indicated. Many EMS systems across the United States have successfully addressed this problem by establishing specialized teams that incorporate alternative forms of response and transportation specifically designed for mass gathering events. Grant funds are requested to develop a special operations response team that incorporates paramedic bicycle teams in conjunction with an all-terrain vehicle for patient transport. Funding would support the response assets, medical equipment included for each, and specially designed uniforms for personnel. Training will be provided by the County. It is not unusual for downtown events to attract upwards of 150,000-200,000 participants, so operating standards estimate that 3 patient



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encounters per 10,000 patrons can be expected to be cared for during each event day. The team will work in collaboration with other Greenville public safety departments including the Greenville City Police Department, Greenville City Fire Department, and the Greenville Office of Emergency Management.

Planned Outcomes

1. Equipment.

Procure bicycles, all-terrain vehicle, equipment, and uniforms in first 6 months. Success is receipt of all items needed for team development.

2. Training and operationalization.

Establish all clinical and operational protocols and commence training in first 6 months. Success is based on quality improvement review and team feedback during simulation training.

3. Deployment

Deploy team to mass gathering event in final 6 months. Success based on metrics collected and reviewed:

Number/type of events.

Number of patient contacts, patients treated/not transported, patients transported.

Equipment/supplies used.

Interventions performed.

Patient outcomes.

Adverse events/complications.

Time parameters (response, on-scene, transport times when applicable).

Success Management

Operational and clinical data is required for all requests for EMS response; thus, response team information will be collected in the usual fashion using the existing electronic format. Greenville County EMS has a quality improvement staff who reviews such data, identifies gaps, makes recommendations for corrective measures.

Continue Beyond GWC Funding

The County of Greenville has already provided funding for one bicycle and helmet, and initial introductory training for the selected team leader. Sustainment of the program following all capital expenditures including equipment depreciation and replacement, supplies, uniforms, and continuing education for team members will all be provided by the County.

What makes this grant compelling? What is the greatest impact?

The most beneficial outcome for this program will be lives saved and less suffering to those attending celebrations, festivals, or other community events. The ability to rapidly and safely respond to patients



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experiencing a medical or traumatic emergency and administering emergent care from simple first aid to providing life-saving interventions will be realized. It is unsafe and near impossible to operate any emergency vehicle in densely populated areas despite the addition of warning lights and sirens. So in addition to responding and administering care to patients, being able to expeditiously and safely extract and transport ill and injured patients from a largely populated venue to an awaiting ambulance on the outskirts is a secondary yet equally important outcome.

Potential Conflicts of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

**Greenville Women Giving
2022 Grant Budget Template**

Organization Name: Greenville County Emergency Medical Services

Grant Title: Greenville County EMS Special Operations Response Team

Grant Costs / Expenses	Amount	Specific Details, if applicable
9 Bicycles	15,561	Team transport
10 Warning light systems	150	Bicycle safety warning system
Back packs/Panniers	2500	Used for carrying medical supplies
Ear pieces	300	For communications systems
Uniform shirts	550	Uniform
Uniform shorts	500	Uniform
Uniform helmets	1350	Uniform
Uniform gloves	150	Uniform
Oxygen/supplies	825	Medical equipmment
Suction devices	750	Medical equipmment
Automatic external defibrillators	7500	Medical equipmment
All-terrain vehicle	68,284	Patient transport
Total Costs / Expenses	98,420	

Funding Sources	Amount	Status (Received / Requested / Committed)
GWG Funds Requested	\$98,420	Requested
Total Projected Funding	\$98,420	Requested

Expenditures of GWG Funds	Amount	
Total GWG Funds Requested		
Percentage of GWG Funds to Total Costs / Expenses	100%	(GWG Funds Requested Divided by Total Costs / Expenses)