

## **Broadband USA Applications Database**

**Applicant Name:** East Alabama Emergency Medical Services Inc

**Project Title:** Mobile Computing Center

**Project Type:** Public Computer Center

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### **Executive Summary**

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EAEMS proposes to purchase two trailers with trucks to pull them that are equipped with 13 computer stations and both satellite and broadband connection capability. The vehicles will be staffed with a driver and a computer trainer, and will travel to unserved or underserved areas of the counties covered by this proposal. The Mobile Computer Center ("MCC") will be handicapped accessible, available at a public location and open for public access. We will also offer classes related to how to use the computers. Many of the counties in our ten county region are unserved or underserved with respect to broadband. Many of the citizens in these areas do not have any computer skills and have no knowledge of how to use a computer. A survey showed that 40% of residents saw no need for broadband in their areas. After having public access to computers, this figure should decrease.

The secondary use of the MCCs will be in the event of a disaster or mass casualty situation where the vehicles could travel to the site or near the site of the incident and be utilized by public safety and/or emergency personnel as a central communication point. Many times in disaster situations the communications between agencies is significantly impaired due to the fact that one agency utilizes VHF while the agency they need to communicate with may use UHF or 800 MHz. Having a representative with computer access to each other could greatly benefit all public safety personnel involved in the disaster and allow communications to take place which will greatly enhance the ability of the public safety personnel to perform their missions during the mass casualty or disaster situation therefore decreasing mortality and morbidity.

East Alabama Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (EAEMS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been in business for over thirty (30) years. Mr. John E. Blue, II serves as the Chief Operating Officer (CEO) and has been in this position for over fifteen (15) years. East Alabama EMS is located at 58 Speedway Industrial Drive, Lincoln, AL 35096. Contact phone numbers are 205.763.8400 or 256.282.5848 - CEO Cell phone. The agency serves a ten county region that includes Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, Talladega, and Tallapoosa Counties. We currently operate under contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health, Office of EMS and Trauma. Our annual operating budget exceeds \$360,000. East Alabama EMS operates under the direction of a Board of Directors with twenty-two members who are selected from each of our ten

counties. The Agency is responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementing emergency medical services within a 10-county area. EAEMS serves as a resource agency to all EMS providers and related organizations within our defined area to facilitate EMS activities.

The mission of East Alabama EMS is to serve as a resource Agency to all Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Providers within the region to facilitate EMS activities, to reduce preventable mortality and morbidity caused by trauma, cardiovascular, and other emergency medical conditions. The agency serves as a coordinating agency and liaison between the Alabama Department of Public Health, Office of EMS and Trauma, EMS providers and individual EMTs, and hospitals within the east region. EAEMS also provides continuing education offerings for EMTs within the region.

EAEMS operates with a strategic plan that is based on contractual requirements of the Alabama Department of Public Health. This grant request is part of the strategic plan to assist EMS providers in our region with equipment that will decrease mortality and morbidity of the citizens of the region.

The MCCs will have a published schedule of locations to which they will travel and be available for classes as well as public access of the computers for senior citizens and the general public. The schedule will be for 30 hours per week per vehicle. The MCCs will offer classes in computer training to teach people in these unserved and/or underserved areas how to use a computer and how to do research on the computer especially related to access of health information. This type of research could be related to medical conditions from which they or their family and friends suffer from or could be how to exercise or eat a healthy diet. There are endless possibilities that could be the end result of teaching a person how to use the computer and the internet.

The area we will serve will be the ten counties in the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission region which mirrors our EMS region as designated by the Alabama Department of Public Health. The target population will be any person who wishes to utilize the computers – they will be public access and available on a pre-determined schedule in rural remote areas not served with open access computers. The population to be served is all and any age.

The number of jobs created by this grant if approved will be nine – one project director, one support person, one computer technician, three technician/educators, and three drivers.

The total cost of the vehicles, trucks, materials, personnel and associated connection technology is anticipated to be \$2,213,893. Of the total amount, we anticipate using match funds related to the use of fire departments and senior citizens centers in the unserved and underserved areas to which we will be traveling and stationing the vehicles. Additionally, East Alabama EMS will need to construct a new facility on our property that will garage the MCC units when not in use and will house the offices for personnel assigned to the MCC project. The remaining amount will complete the funding we need to fully implement this project, and we are excited about the prospect of providing this service to our communities.