

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: East Alabama Emergency Medical Services Inc

Project Title: Cardiac Connections

Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

Alabama has the 4th highest death rate from heart disease and the 7th highest from stroke. In 2004, cardiovascular disease accounted for 34% of all deaths in the state. The death rates for our region vary by county from 28.9% to 47.1% within our region. Due to the significant number of deaths for cardiac events, East Alabama Emergency Medical Services (EAEMS) proposes to utilize the broadband service being brought to our unserved and underserved areas to decrease the death rates.

The mission of East Alabama EMS (EAEMS) 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. In keeping with the mission of our agency we are proposing a project that would utilize the proposed infrastructure to decrease mortality to citizens in our ten county region. Our project would place laptop and/or desktop units in all response vehicles, ambulance services and fire departments that provide emergency medical response. The computers would be utilized to transmit data to the area hospitals related to cardiac patients. There are many rural areas within our region that do not have cellular coverage and it is not possible to transmit data from the scene of the patient encounter to the hospital in a timely manner.

East Alabama EMS supports 175 EMS services, volunteer rescue squads and fire departments in a 10-county area. Laptop computers with wireless internet capability placed on the ambulances and first responder vehicles of these services will allow cardiac EKG data to be transmitted directly to the medical facility, allowing the patient to bypass the emergency room and proceed directly to the cardiac catheterization lab. Additionally, desktop units with internet access installed at fire department stations and EMS offices will benefit the hospitals, responding services and patients by allowing communications for patient data transmission and education related to patient care.

We propose to place Panasonic "Toughbook" laptop computers in approximately 300 ambulances and first responder vehicles and 200 desktop units in the offices that are located in the region covered by

this proposal. Vehicles would also need to be equipped with satellite or wireless technology that would allow the transmission of information over the internet.

EAEMS is acutely aware of the urgency required when our services respond to a patient with a cardiac event. In a situation where every second is critical to patient survival, having access to fast and efficient methods of transmitting cardiac data ahead to the receiving hospital will save both time and lives. As we have all heard through various media outlets, "Time is Muscle". The faster that a patient with a cardiac event can reach the cardiac catheterization lab, the better their chance of a full recovery is. If there is a delay in the patient getting to the cath lab, their chances for survival or a full recovery are diminished.

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 suffering from a cardiac event. This population group is normally above fifty years of age but could be any age.

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 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 needs and to decrease mortality and morbidity of the citizens of the region.

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

The total cost to place these units and associated connection technology in our region is anticipated to be \$3,210,146. This funding will allow our agency to fully implement this project to save lives, and we are excited about the prospect of providing this service to our community.