



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 2, 2017.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: York County
Program Title: Automatic External Defibrillators Plus Outreach Initiative
Program Category: Criminal Justice & Public Safety

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: Neil Morgan
Title: County Administrator
Signature: 

**2017 VACo Achievement Awards
Nomination Summary
York County**

Program Title: Automatic External Defibrillators Plus Outreach Initiative

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Program Overview

In 2016, the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety identified the need for life safety demonstrations pertaining to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) and the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in the workplace. Although AEDs have been in County facilities for over eight years, and quarterly training classes are made available to each employee, it was still found that many staff members lacked confidence in their ability to use an AED, and would, therefore, benefit from further instruction concerning AED use. In order to meet this need, we developed a county-wide initiative geared towards providing AED familiarization to County employees. The AED Plus Outreach initiative allows first responders from the Department of Fire and Life Safety the chance to visit locations where AEDs have been placed and evaluate whether the employees are comfortable and mentally prepared to perform defibrillation to SCA victims. We have ensured this program engages staff in each of the locations where the thirty-three AEDs have been placed, which includes public facilities, select vehicles, seventeen County buildings, and parks. This program works in conjunction with the quarterly CPR and AED training, as well as the initial AED training of the Site Supervisors by the Department of Fire and Life Safety in 2008. This program highlights the importance of revisiting personnel and AED Sites to establish a rapport and facilitate discussion.

1. The Problem/Need for the Program:

SCA is a continuing concern in public and workplace safety. According to data from the American Heart Association, SCA is a leading cause of death in the United States. As the Department of Fire and Life Safety, we feel it is vital to ensure York County employees are given opportunities to be trained and prepared in case a situation arises where defibrillation must be performed. For those suffering from SCA, quick response from on-lookers could mean a difference between life and death. Each year, emergency medical services (EMS) treat about 383,000 victims of SCA before they reach the hospital. Less than 12 percent of those victims survive.

County employees, outside of Fire and Life Safety, are not required to maintain or certify in CPR. Though classes are taught quarterly and all county employees are encouraged and permitted to attend, CPR and AED training are not mandatory. The classes, which are taught to York County employees, are the layperson level and not intertwined with Fire and Life Safety CPR Training, based on Provider versus Layperson certification. Because Fire and Life Safety personnel are the primary responders to arrive when bystander CPR/AED is administered in a County building, it was decided that demonstrations on the use of AEDs would be highly beneficial to the county employees. In addition, Fire and Life Safety personnel would have the chance to explain the role first responders take during a SCA incident. This would address the need to improve staff understanding of how a SCA incident would occur, and reduce the stress employees may experience when attempting to coordinate efforts with first responders during an SCA incident.

2. Program Development:

The York County Department of Fire and Life Safety developed specific training steps to ensure the successful implementation of this program. First, we aimed to re-

acquaint employees to the locations of the AED, AED operations, application on a patient (mannequin), contraindications, and how to follow the prompts. This ensures that county employees, regardless of their level of CPR/AED training, have a basic understanding of the defibrillation process. During the program, we communicated with our 911 Center in order to make employees feel comfortable calling 911 in case of emergencies. We felt this step was crucial to showing employees that 911 dispatchers are trained and ready to assist with Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD), and are able to walk them through the AED process, if necessary. This reduces the stress of employees on site, and increases the potential for success in case of a real emergency. Next, Fire and Life Safety personnel showed what would happen when first responders arrived on the scene of a SCA incident. Finally, our personnel spent time talking with county employees to ensure they had no more questions and were completely comfortable with their own abilities, as well as the operation, function and interaction of EMS providers during an emergency.

In order to visit each location, the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety dedicated a week to this outreach initiative. During the 2016 “Called to Care” EMS Week, our staff collaborated with departments county-wide in order to arrange adequate time for instruction and discussion.

3. Cost of the Program:

There was no cost to administer this program, other than fuel for apparatus and training AEDs/pads. Personnel administered the program on duty.

4. The Results/Success of the Program

Our department received numerous emails and words of appreciation for our

program from employees and department heads. The positive feedback we received helped to highlight the importance of this program amongst county employees. Because this program engaged some people that already underwent AED or CPR training, we were able to address any questions, misunderstandings, or concerns they had. Many were shocked to know that if their CPR was efficient, they may be asked to continue even after first responders arrive on scene. Talking with county staff ensured we were able to identify misunderstandings such as this, and find a way to mitigate issues prior to an incident.

Due to our ability to coordinate and engage with other departments, we were able to deliver life-saving information across our county, as well as strengthen relationships between departments through the smooth execution of a training program. Whereas this is not exactly measurable in statistical numbers, we feel there is an invaluable improvement to public safety due to this program. County staff now has the assurance that our extended providers are prepared and ready to assist during an SCA incident prior to Fire and Life Safety arrival. We have increased everyone's awareness of their role and provided them with confidence in the system and their abilities. Due to the success of this program, the department will continue this outreach annually during EMS Week.

5. Worthiness of an Award:

This initiative is deserving of an award due in part to the unique nature of the initiative. Reaching out to the community is a consistent message for CPR initiatives. Instead of focusing solely on community education, York County Fire and Life Safety looked to benefit public safety by providing AED familiarization to internal employees that we see every day. Those employees regularly interact with the public and are

available to be the first responder on any incident happening in their immediate proximity. CPR/AED training does not typically receive follow-up instruction beyond the initial training, therefore York County Fire and Life Safety has been able to address a need in our system that is often overlooked. The follow-up discussion and training for AEDs in the workplace is likely a gap in systems across the Commonwealth and Country, and we feel every EMS Community should reach out to and ensure a seamless continuum of care and improved quality of care by the initial responders.

6. Brief Program Summary:

In 2016, the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety decided to take advantage of Emergency Medical Services Week and promote workplace training about sudden cardiac arrest and the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) by other fellow County employees. York County has AEDs installed in public buildings and staff housed in those buildings may be on the front line if a citizen or coworker experiences a cardiac arrest. The use of an AED can mean the difference between life and death. The county offers employees training classes on first aid/CPR quarterly; however, since an emergency occurrence in the workplace can cause stress on those that may be close by and could act, there was a desire to help County employees become more familiar with the AED and gain more confidence in the use of the equipment. In order to meet this need, York County Fire and Life Safety developed a county-wide initiative geared towards providing extra AED familiarization to county employees. The AED Plus Outreach Initiative allows our Fire and Life Safety responders the chance to visit locations where AEDs have been placed and evaluate whether the employees are comfortable and mentally prepared to perform defibrillation to cardiac arrest victims. The program engages staff in each of the locations

where the thirty-three AEDs have been placed, which includes public facilities, select vehicles, seventeen county buildings, and parks.

7. Supplemental Material Attached:

Photo of County Administrator Neil Morgan with firefighters performing AED training.

Program Title: AED Plus Outreach Initiative



Members of the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety visited County buildings and sites to provide AED instruction. County Administrator Neil Morgan, pictured above, was one of many who benefitted from hands-on instruction from members of the YCDFLS.