



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2018.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

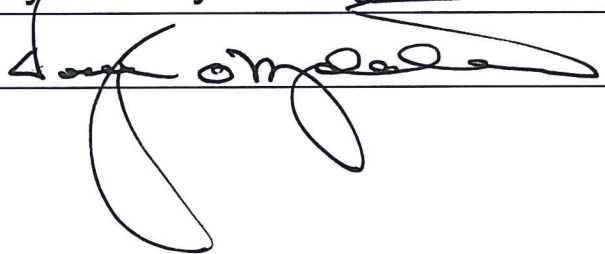
PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico
Program Title: At-Risk Resident Weather Radio Distribution
Program Category: Criminal Justice & Public Safety

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Victoria Davis
Title: Management Specialist
Department: County Manager's Office
Telephone: 804-501-4276 Website: henrico.us
Email: dav127@henrico.us

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Douglas Middleton
Title: Deputy County Manager for Public Safety
Signature: 

1. Program Overview

The At-Risk Resident Weather Radio Distribution Project is designed to get NOAA weather radios and other emergency planning resources into the hands of low-income families in Henrico County. This population tends to be the most impacted when a weather emergency occurs, particularly when it comes to recovery efforts. This program strives to enhance information sharing to provide simple knowledge about weather emergencies, so citizens can take control of their own preparedness efforts and have increased awareness about impending weather emergencies.

2. Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

Something as simple as a \$30 radio that immediately announces severe thunderstorm, flood, and tornado warnings saves lives and increases awareness of life-safety events. However, even the low cost of these radios is too much for low-income families to afford. A 1994 study conducted by James W. Redmond noted there is a natural competition for attention and resources based on needs (1995, p.4). Preoccupation with basic needs leaves little time to consider planning for other things like weather emergencies, leading to a gap in technology available to help support low-income families in the County enhance their own emergency preparedness efforts.

While the County is under no legal obligation to provide resources, it only makes sense to collaborate with partners who interact with these populations every day to enhance awareness, preparedness, and response capabilities. This ties to the Office of Emergency Management's top strategic goal to *"focus public preparedness efforts on the role of the citizen and survivor as a resource rather than a liability, how to mitigate the efforts of natural hazards, and neighbors helping neighbors after an emergency"* and to reduce loss of life and property in the County by providing hazard and risk information using the best-suited technology.

3. How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

Part of the mission of the Henrico Division of Fire and Office of Emergency Management is to mitigate risks and plan for hazardous conditions and distributing the NOAA weather radios accomplishes this mission. This program focuses on some of the most vulnerable populations in the County that would be among the hardest hit in a weather emergency. As noted in the Redmond study, many times these populations have not even given a thought to emergency preparedness because of other competing needs. However, by providing this durable resource along with planning information, these 99 families can enhance their awareness and are a bit more prepared for weather needs.

4. How Program Was Carried Out

Henrico County Office of Emergency Management leveraged a grant opportunity that was made available through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for funding to support this initiative. This is an important part of the County's Office of Emergency Management's outreach and preparedness efforts, which does not currently use local funding.

5. Financing and Staffing

Henrico County Office of Emergency Management was able to secure \$1,000 in grant funding through a State Homeland Security Grant to initiate this program. Henrico Emergency Management leveraged available Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers and available staff to assist with program registration and to assist with distribution of radios at minimal cost.

6. Program Results

In December 2017, by partnering with the Henrico Christmas Mother, we were able to distribute 99 of the 100 radios to low-income families; one remaining family moved out of the area and did not leave contact information with the Christmas Mother. As the radios were distributed, information on emergency preparedness was also shared, along with a "File of Life." This document is where residents could document their medical information and maintain this copy on their refrigerator or another easily accessible spot in their home for public safety personnel to access in an emergency. The distribution

also offered the Division of Fire the opportunity to talk about fire safety and offer smoke alarm information and installations.

7. Brief Summary

In the fall of 2017, the Office of Emergency Management worked with the Henrico Christmas Mother to identify a method by which weather radios could be distributed to low-income families. This effort meets a primary objective of the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Emergency Management Planning Grant Program processes in seeking to widely share emergency communication information with residents of the County. For the purpose of this program, low-income was defined through the Henrico Christmas Mother program eligibility criteria and included low-income households with residents 65 years of age or older, children 12 years of age or younger, or individuals with disabilities that impede their ability to quickly escape danger. Recipients of the radios had to agree to keep the radios positioned near a window or other measure to ensure they could receive alerts, keep the radio plugged in, maintain backup batteries in the radio, and replace the batteries annually or when the “low battery” light indicated batteries needed to be replaced.

These radios automatically provide weather updates, and they also immediately broadcast emergency weather information like watches and warnings that are sent from the National Weather Service Office in Wakefield, Virginia, Amber Alerts from the Virginia State Police, or other emergency announcements. With this resource, the County strives to exceed the Code of Virginia requirement to help protect citizens from emergencies.