



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2023.** Please include this submission form with the 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: Chesterfield County Virginia
Program Title: Emergency Medical Services Educational Facility
Program Category: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Joseph P. Casey, Ph.D.
Title: County Administrator
Signature: 

VACO Fire and EMS – EMS Education Facility 2023

ABSTRACT OF THE PROGRAM:

Chesterfield County Fire and EMS provides fire-based emergency medical services to the citizens, visitors and guests of Chesterfield County Virginia. This system is built upon the ability to deliver paramedic level care. To this ability, Chesterfield County Fire and EMS needs to maintain an appropriate number of paramedics to account for service demand.

Previously the department relied upon a medical university to educate our paramedic students. This methodology was expensive and had mixed results. By becoming our own Emergency Medical Services training facility, student pass rates have increased, as well as our return on investment. In addition, the service quality to the citizens has increased.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Chesterfield County Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Chesterfield Virginia, is fast becoming a nationally recognized Emergency Medical Services training facility. The objective of this program is to train firefighters as nationally registered paramedics meeting the success criteria of 90% or higher pass rate, while maintaining a high-quality instructional staff, and a cost-effective educational program.

This project began in summer of 2020. The process to become an EMS educational facility is a multi-year, arduous bureaucratic effort. This effort includes the need to create hundreds of pages of supporting documentation, development of policy, procedure, and business practices, in addition to a significant amount of staff time to manage the project. The team putting all this together has demonstrated the ability to maintain focus on the multiyear goal, all while dealing with the many short and mid-term needs.

In the winter of 2021, the initial paramedic school began. While all the course work was being developed and delivered, staff was able to manage a significant programmatic evaluation by the various authorities having jurisdiction. During this time, issues were identified and remediated all while the continued delivery of a quality educational program.

In Spring of 2023, the second paramedic class will be graduating. The forecast success rates trending in the 95% and up range.

The direct recipients of this program are the firefighters within Chesterfield County Fire and Emergency Medical Services. The indirect recipient of this program is the community we serve. This includes the 379,041 residents, their guests, as well as those traveling through Chesterfield County.

VACO Fire and EMS – EMS Education Facility 2023

Chesterfield County Fire and Emergency Medical Services – Training and Education Division identified the need, developed the implementation plan, and initiated the burdensome process for becoming a nationally recognized emergency medical services training facility. This included program and curriculum development, logistically arranging for the classroom space, coordinating with area hospitals for required clinical experiences, and identifying the right program management and instructional cadre.

Developing and maintaining an EMS education program can not be accomplished in a vacuum. To achieve the best results our department reached out to multiple subject matter experts. The program utilizes the Chesterfield County Fire and EMS Paramedic Advisory Committee to provide strategic direction and operational oversight to the education program. This committee is composed of 20 members from within the department as well as representatives from Chesterfield County Learning and Performance Center, all the area hospital systems and the Virginia Fire Chief's Association. In addition, two hospital systems within the metropolitan area, HCA Healthcare and Bon Secours Mercy Health, provide access to all of their staff and facilities for the required clinical experiences.

PROGRAM COST:

Operating costs include staff time, educational material, and disposable goods. Staff time includes a full-time employee and a part time employee dedicated to delivering the course material and associated administrative tasks. In addition, a consistent on-demand part time instructional cadre is necessary for skills labs.

There are no direct capital costs, as the training facility is already constructed and has been in place for years.

In reviewing the previous method of delivery, where we utilized Virginia Commonwealth University – Medical College of Virginia, the following observations can be made.

Tuition, Materials and Fees costs totaled \$6,000 per student. Class size was 15 students resulting in \$90,000. The university led program had a success rate of approximately 85%.

Chesterfield Fire and EMS still had to provide the majority of the instructional staff, the physical location, course material and associated administrative tasks.

Under the current program, the success rates are near 100%. So while staff time is a real cost that comes close to what was being spent on the university, the return on investment is much higher.

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PROGRAM RESULTS/SUCCESS:

In January of 2023, the Virginia Office of EMS published, *Paramedic Program Rankings based on the 16th Percent Peer-to-Peer benchmark*. In this document, all of the paramedic education programs within Virginia are compared as to their cumulative student pass rate within 3 attempts. Chesterfield County Fire and EMS has a 100% success rate as compared to our former program, Virginia Commonwealth University, at 92%. This 8% difference in a 25-person class equated to two students not becoming paramedics. The lost time cost for two students not passing a two-year program is significant.

WORTHINESS OF AWARD:

The Chesterfield County Fire and EMS Department efforts to become an EMS education facility fills the need of the departments service delivery model. This program allows our department to consistently and reliably train up new paramedics in a cost-effective way. This upgraded level of training for our firefighters provides a better educational experience and higher success rates for the paramedic student. This also enhances the customer service provided to the citizens by maintaining, or even increasing the number of paramedics in the field.