

Heart Defibrillators Available for Rural Entities

The Emergency Management Services (EMS) Division of the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) received its third Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) grant to fund placement of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in rural areas of the state. The Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils (OARC) and the 9-1-1 Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (9-1-1 ACOG) have begun taking applications for the program.

This year's funding level is \$197,031 which will be used by OSDH to purchase as many AED units as possible for 2005. Last year, the agency distributed 207 defibrillators to rural areas. The ACOG deadline for applications is Feb. 15. According to federal guidelines, only entities in Logan and Canadian counties are eligible.

Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in North America, killing one adult every one to two minutes. National annual fatalities are estimated to exceed 225,000 with the average victim about age 65, although some victims are in their 30s or 40s.

The key to survival is prompt defibrillation. Public safety agencies should

aim to reduce the critical interval from collapse to defibrillation by focusing on minimizing the time from the emergency 9-1-1 call to the first defibrillator shock. Communities that reduce this "call-to-shock" time to five minutes or less can expect to resuscitate as many as one-third to one-half of sudden cardiac arrest victims found in ventricular fibrillation. Eight in 10 survivors will live at least a year longer, and six in 10 survivors will live at least five more years.

"The challenge for communities is to respond immediately with a defibrillator and treat every victim within five minutes of arrest. It really doesn't matter who brings the defibrillator to the victim's side. The important thing is to make sure the unit is working and readily available," said OSDH Director of the Emergency Medical Services Division Shawn Rogers. "An action plan should ensure the device and trained rescuers reach the victim in time. Since rapid defibrillation is the key to success, 24-hour, radio-dispatched, mobile platforms like police and sheriff's or fire chief cars are very effective placements," Rogers added.

The EMS Division applied for the grant as the lead agency in a partnership with



Trish Weedn, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils demonstrates how an Automated External Defibrillator works.

10 organizations including ACOG and OARC, the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association, Oklahoma Sheriffs Association, American Heart Association, Association of Police Chiefs, Office of Rural Health, and the OSDH Chronic Disease Service. OARC is contracted to rank applications from within each of their
...See "Defibrillators" on page three.

Inside Perspective:

Safe Roads Group Delivers Signatures	2
ASPA Seeking Award Nominations	2
What's New Around the Region	3
ACOG Calendar	4

2005 REAP Applications Underway

The 2005 Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) grant process is currently underway, with communities in the Central Oklahoma region with a population of under 7,000 eligible to apply. The maximum dollar amount for grants is \$50,000, which can be used for a variety of projects in the areas of community development and transportation.

REAP funding is important to the region because it allows small communities

to develop necessary infrastructure and transportation projects that they otherwise may not have full resources to implement. The program consistently receives more requests for project funding than there is funding available.

Projects can include, but are not limited to the following: Transportation projects, water quality projects, including acquisition, treatment, distribution and
...See "REAP Grants" on page three.

Safe Roads Group Delivers Petition to State

The Oklahomans for Safe Bridges and Roads (OSBR), a coalition developed to address funding issues that would help maintain the state's bridges and roads, delivered signatures in December to call for a statewide vote of the people to help supplement transportation funding.

The group collected signatures last fall and submitted 297,688 signatures to the Secretary of State in late December 2004. The minimum number of signatures required for an initiative petition is 220,000. At press time, the office of the Secretary of State is certifying the signatures.

"This represents a chance for the people of this state to fundamentally change how roads and bridges are funded by creating a constitutional lockbox to

protect money for transportation," said Neil McCaleb, former state Secretary of Transportation and president of OSBR.

The trust fund would seek to raise the current fuel tax rate incrementally, to eight cents per gallon for diesel and five cents per gallon for unleaded fuels.

The increase would bring both taxes to approximately 22 cents per gallon, which is close to the regional average for the South Central Plains. Oklahoma currently has the lowest fuel tax rate in an eight-state region that includes Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, New Mexico, Louisiana and Colorado.

OSBR officials are prepared to answer critics that say that the public doesn't favor a tax increase, but estimates provided by the group show that the proposal would have a minimal effect on the average motorist.

"An increase in the fuel tax will cost the average Oklahoman about \$2.50 a month," said McCaleb. "That's \$30 a year — a small price to pay for safer roadways."

By creating a "lockbox," the funds generated by the tax increase would be diverted to a Constitutional trust fund

and only be used for building, construction and maintenance of highway system roads and bridges. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation has a growing \$8 billion backlog of construction and repair projects that needs funding.

Safety has been one of the motivating forces behind the initiative. The state leads the nation in the number of bridges that are structurally deficient, and a recent study indicates that over

25 percent of the state's roads are in critical condition, and 33 percent of all driving surfaces are in poor condition. The group also discussed the number of safety risks to drivers of poor roads and that Oklahoma ranks seven percent higher than the national average in traffic fatalities. Safety was also one of the predominant issues in ACOG's recent 2030 OCARTS Transportation survey.

While the signatures are being certified, the group anticipates a filing of protests to the petition. Given legal challenges and briefings, the group is hopeful to take the proposal to a statewide vote at year's end, or in early spring 2006.

For more information on the petition, visit www.oksaferoads.com.



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Association of Central Oklahoma Governments

*"Providing Regional Leadership in
Central Oklahoma Since 1966"*

Established in 1966, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) is a voluntary association of cities, towns and counties. ACOG helps member governments plan for common needs, cooperate for mutual benefit and coordinate for sound regional development.

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ASPA Seeking Award Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2005 Administrator of the Year Award. The annual tribute recognizes a public administrator whose career exhibits the highest standards of excellence, dedication, and accomplishment. The award is sponsored by the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Nominees are solicited throughout the state. They are judged based on outstanding leadership qualities, high professional and ethical standards, superior record of achievement, and strong commitment to public service. Nominees may work for organizations at any level of government, nonprofit organization, or educational institution.

The deadline for this year's nominations is March 18. The award will be

presented on May 2 at a luncheon banquet sponsored by the Oklahoma Federal Executive Board.

Last year's Administrator of the Year was Stanley Hupfeld, President and CEO of Integris Health, Oklahoma's largest not-for-profit health care organization. Other recent recipients and the positions held at the time of selection include: George Moser, Executive Director of the Oklahoma House of Representatives' Research, Legal and Fiscal Divisions; Bob Conner, Executive Director of the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker Air Force Base; Jerry Regier, Oklahoma Cabinet Secretary of Health and Human Services; Leonard Martin, city manager of Edmond. Other distinguished public servants who have received the ...See "Nominations" on page four.

“Defibrillators”

...Continued from page one. areas using a “scoring tool” to determine the most effective venues for successful defibrillations.

“Everyone who has a duty to respond to victims of sudden cardiac arrest should be trained and equipped to defibrillate. Responders with rapid response times such as firefighters and police, as well as the EMTs whose job is to save lives, are natural choices to receive the training and equipment,” Rogers said.

For information about how to obtain an application, contact Stephen Willoughby, ACOG.

“REAP Grants”

...Continued from page one. recovery; solid waste disposal; sanitary sewer construction or improvement; provision of health care services, including emergency medical care for rural areas; construction or improvement of telecommunication facilities; improvements of municipal utility distribution systems; expenditures designed to increase employment; implementation of emergency communications systems; non-administrative costs for engineering studies and preliminary architectural designs; construction of public facilities; and others.

Last year, REAP funds, along with de-obligated funds from past years, helped fund several regional economic and community development projects in Forest Park, Logan County, Arcadia, Calumet, Lexington, Union City, Geary, Mulhall and Coyle.

REAP grants last year, and de-obligated funds from previous cycles, also funded transportation projects in Calumet, Lexington, Orlando, Logan County, Canadian County, Nicoma Park and Cedar Valley Township.

Application packets have been mailed to eligible entities in the Central Oklahoma region and an information and application workshop is scheduled for Feb. 4, at 10 a.m., at the ACOG offices.

Deadline for application submission is March 18. REAP grant selection by the ACOG board of directors is likely scheduled for late April.

For more information on REAP, contact Diane McCullough, ACOG.



Around the Region

- Two public meetings last month showcased recent developments of the region’s long range transportation plan. The **Open Houses** were part of the **2030 OCARTS Plan** public involvement process. The meetings, held in **Moore** and **Oklahoma City**, featured information on freight, transit and trails modes, as well as the overall regional street and highway network. Those attending provided feedback and comments on the Plan.

- **Richard Bennett Jr.** was named new fire chief for the city of **Noble** last month. The position had been vacant throughout most of last year. Chief Bennett had previously worked as a firefighter in Anadarko for 17 years, and has several years of administrative experience.

- The **Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO)** is hosting its North Central Regional Conference in Kansas City April 17-20. Public safety officials from Central Oklahoma are invited to attend the conference, which will include sessions on emerging technologies, Homeland Security, interoperability, and many other 9-1-1 strategies. Discounted early registration is only \$99 before Feb. 28. Call 816-701-8216 for more details.

- The state of **Oklahoma** has redesigned its Web site and has changed its address. The new site, at **www.ok.gov** features several new services and design improvements to help make it more navigable and user-friendly. Web designers conducted extensive focus groups with citizens, state employees and business leaders to customize the site to fit the specific needs of every type of user. Governor **Brad Henry** said that the

new Web site will help private citizens and businesses interact with their government and take advantage of the many programs and services it provides.

- The **American Humane Association** is providing grant support for local animal shelter expansion or improvement. The Meacham Foundation grants may be used for construction, improvements or equipment that directly impacts the welfare of animals in the shelter. Nonprofit groups and public agencies that are members of AHA are eligible to apply. Visit **www.americanhumane.org** for more information

- The **Oklahoma City National Memorial** is planning a number of significant events to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the **Murrah Building** bombing with the **National Week of Hope** April 17-24. Communities from around Central Oklahoma that lost citizens in the bombing will start off the month of April by planting seedlings from the Survivor Tree. A host of ceremonies and reunions will also be featured, as the Memorial Second Decade Campaign commences. For more information on the programming, call 235-3313.



Oklahoma City National Memorial

“Nominations”

...Continued from page two.

honor include Dr. Hans Brisch, Steven Gentling, Connie Irby, Oscar Jackson, and Dr. Edward Johnson.

The American Society for Public Administration is a nationwide, nonprofit educational and professional organization. With chapters in every state and a membership of more than 10,000 government and nonprofit administrators, scholars, teachers and students.

The American Society for Public Administration is the largest and most prominent professional association in public administration. It is the only organization of its kind in the United States aiming broadly to improve the administration and image of public service. The national organization was founded in 1939. The Oklahoma chapter was established in 1964.

To obtain a nomination form or to find out more about the Administrator of the Year award, send an email to shousel@ou.edu.

ACOG Calendar

February

- 10th Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 14th Citizen's Advisory Committee, 3 p.m.
- 21st ACOG Offices Closed for President's Day
- 22nd Clean Cities Stakeholders, 1:30 p.m.
- 24th 9-1-1 Board of Directors, 1 p.m.
Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee, 1:20 p.m.
ACOG Board of Directors, 1:45 p.m.
Garber-Wellington Policy Committee, 2:30 p.m.

March

- 8th 9-1-1 Technical Committee
- 10th Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 15th Operation FireSAFE, 10 a.m.
Clean Cities Stakeholders, 1:30 p.m.
- 21st Citizen's Advisory Committee, 3 p.m.
- 31st 9-1-1 Board of Directors, 1 p.m.
Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee, 1:20 p.m.
ACOG Board of Directors, 1:45 p.m.
Garber-Wellington Policy Committee, 2:30 p.m.

Central Oklahoma

Perspective

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