



# CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MEASURE Z EXPENDITURES

(Advisory Committee will make recommendations to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors as to expenditure of funds derived from *Measure Z*.)

## APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Agency Name: **Southern Trinity Area Rescue**

Mailing Address: **PO Box 4 Mad River CA 95552**

Contact Person: **Brooke Entsminger**

Title: **EMS Manager**

Telephone: **707-574-6616 x209**

E-mail address: **bjohnston@sthsclinic.org**

1. AMOUNT OF MEASURE Z FUNDING REQUESTED FOR FY ~~2018-19~~: **\$ 82528.00**

2019-20

2. ENTITY TYPE -- Please check appropriate box.

- a. Humboldt County Department
- b. Contract Service Provider to Humboldt County
- c. Local Government Entity
- d. Private Service Provider
- e. Non-Profit Service Provider
- f. Other

3. Please provide brief description of proposal for which you are seeking funding.

**Southern Trinity Area Rescue (STAR) is the only 911 Ambulance response service in the Eastern Humboldt/ Southern Trinity County area on the Hwy 36 corridor. STAR currently is a primarily volunteer staffed, non-profit service; however, due to changes in local community and industry for the past four or five years we are still experiencing trouble recruiting enough volunteers to fully staff the ambulance. STAR has transitioned to having two paid EMT's to help alleviate some of the strain on the volunteers and make it possible for STAR to continue to serve its community and provide emergency medical care to this rural part of the county. In 2018 we received Measure Z funds and with them were able to continue to employ one EMT and hire a second EMTs with great success. We are currently trying to maintain these two paid positions which would in turn keep**

**STAR staffed and able to provide 911 ambulance services to a part of the county that would otherwise have none.**

4. *Measure Z* funding is scheduled to "sunset" in 2020. How are you developing a plan for sustainability, including diversification of funding sources, in order for your proposal to carry on without reliance on future *Measure Z* funds?

**Please see question 5**

5. If this request is for the continuation, or expansion, of an existing program/service, what is the current source of funding for that program/service?

**STAR is constantly applying for a variety of grant funds to improve its service, along with volunteer led fundraisers, donations, financial support from Trinity County, and patient billing revenue. Currently, along with all of these funding sources STAR also relies on its umbrella company, Southern Trinity Health Services (STHS), to help with its operational costs. At this point STHS is still unable to divert any more funds to STAR than it already does, so we continue to look to other funding sources from the counties that we serve, such as Measure Z, to keep STAR operational. Rural ambulance service is a non-profit business by nature and small communities that rely on it will always need financial assistance, which is often transient, to keep it operational. As the economy of Northern California shifts with the changes in industry, the people of STAR will continue to work with the community and the changing environment to develop new ways to create and acquire income as well as recruit volunteers to keep rural ambulance service stable and available.**

6. If you are awarded *Measure Z* funds, how will you use them to leverage additional grants, contributions, or community support?

**Most grant funders want to see community effort and support before they invest in a company or project. If STAR can show that it has the support of Humboldt County through Measure Z funding, there will be a better chance of being awarded matching funds or support from other sources when they are available. Also the more both counties (Humboldt and Trinity) are involved in keeping STAR operational the more aware people might come to be of its importance and become a part of its much needed support network.**

7. Will this proposal require new or expanded activity on the part of another entity to be fully functional and effective? If so, please describe.

**N/A**

8. Are there recurring expenses associated to this application, such as personnel costs? Please check yes or no and if so, please detail those expenses.  Yes  No

**The sole purpose of this Measure Z application is to continue acquiring the funds needed to fully man our severely understaffed ambulance service by continuing to employ the two full-time EMT's that were approved under Measure Z in 2018. One time grant funds for equipment and projects are easier to come by than continuous yearly assistance; the Measure Z funds we have been awarded in the past have help fill that gap.**

**ATTACHMENTS—Please include the following with your application**

**Proposal Narrative:** Brief description of your request for *Measure Z* funds – Please explain how it is an essential service or for public safety. (*one page maximum*)

**Prior Year Results:** If your request is a continuation of a program funded with *Measure Z* in prior fiscal years, please provide the results of implementation. (*one page maximum*)

**Program Budget**

***I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above statements and all attachments are true and correct***

DATE: 2/6/2019

SIGNATURE:  \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION TO:**

Humboldt County Citizens' Advisory Committee on *Measure Z* Expenditures  
c/o County Administrative Office  
825 Fifth Street, Suite 111  
Eureka, CA 95501-1153

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## Southern Trinity Area Rescue Project Proposal Narrative

Southern Trinity Area Rescue (STAR) is a primarily volunteer, non-profit, 911 ambulance services which provides Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to 1250 square miles of remote Eastern Humboldt and Southern Trinity counties. STAR was formed in 1979 by a small group of local community oriented volunteers. Today it provides both advanced and basic 911 ambulance services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. STAR's covers a response area from 9 miles east of Bridgeville in Humboldt County to the South Fork Mountain ridge, and from Zenia/Kettenpom bordering Alderpoint to east of the Yolla Bolly Range. This vast area includes a large section of *Hwy 36, Dinsmore, the Ruth Lake Recreation Area*, and the Southern Trinity School District. STAR is the only ambulance provider for these vastly underserved regions where 68 % of the population lives below the federal poverty line and a large population comes to vacation. From our central base of operations in Mad River CA, just one mile from the Humboldt County boarder, the nearest hospital is 52 miles away in Fortuna, Ca.

STAR volunteers are proud to serve these vast, sometimes forgotten, regions of Humboldt and Trinity counties. Our services provide emergency medical care to people who would otherwise have none. Our volunteers work very hard with the nonprofit health center, Southern Trinity Health Services, to continuously raise money within the community through benefit activities and donation drives along with billing revenue and grants, to support STAR's basic expenses, including supplies, uniforms, training, maintenance, insurance and licensing.

For the past 3 years we have been at a critical point. Due to changes in community and industry in our area, from mainly timber harvest to cannabis, our call volume remains constant, while our number of volunteers shrunk drastically. Last year we acquired Measure Z funds to employ the two full time EMT's we needed to keep STAR operational and supplement our volunteer run shifts. We were also able to acquire year to year designated funds from the Ruth Lake Community Services District to help supplement those positions. These paid EMT's staffing the ambulance two days a week (48 hours) give our volunteers the relief they need to continue performing the great service they provide, as well as keep 911 services available. STAR is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year of service in 2019 and, 2017 was the first year STAR requested and received financial assistance from the county. STAR is asking to be granted Measure Z funds to pay for these EMT positions so we can ensure the critical continuous emergency medical coverage for our area in the future.

STAR recognizes that eastern Humboldt County is only a part of its response area, however, on average 25% of our resources are spent in Humboldt County, or on Humboldt County residents, below are the emergency medical call numbers responded to by STAR for the past year.

### ***Call Summary 2018***

	Humboldt	Trinity	Other County/ State or Country
<b>Total Emergency Medical Calls</b>	36	138	0
<b>Yearly Percent of Calls</b>	21%	79%	
<b>County of Residence for Patient Treated</b>	40	80	37
<b>Yearly Percent</b>	25%	51%	24%

STAR plays a critical role in providing rural Emergency Medical Service to a remote portion of Eastern Humboldt County along Hwy 36. We look forward to working with the Citizens Advisory Committee on Measure Z to ensure we do not lose this valuable coverage, and thank you in advance for your consideration.

## **Southern Trinity Area Rescue Prior Year Results**

Southern Trinity Area Rescue (STAR) was awarded \$65,420.00 of Measure Z funds for the 2018-19 year to hire up to two fulltime paid EMT's to help staff the ambulance and keep 911 medical services available in our remote part of Eastern Humboldt County.

STAR continued to successfully employ the full time EMT that was hired in October 2017 using these funds. Further STAR was able to hire a second full time EMT that has been with us since October of 2018. These employees have not only given our volunteers some needed relief and kept the ambulance operational by filling some of the open shifts that existed, but are dedicated to STAR and help with extra activities above and beyond regular duties to continue to improve STAR so we have quality service, care and operational ability.

Currently, with full time weekend ambulance coverage, due to the above mentioned funding and activities, STAR has been more than able to maintain reliable and full time 911 coverage of its service area. As seen in the above application STAR is asking Humboldt County to help us maintain these two positions for the 2019-20 year. Without these paid EMT positions STAR would no longer be able to have ambulance coverage 7 days a week in our service area.

The effects of hiring two EMT's to supplement our volunteer staff have been nothing but positive. Not only has it enabled STAR to maintain ambulance service in its service area, but it has decreased response times to an all-time low when responding to critical emergencies; along with creating progressive improvements in the quality of emergency preparedness and care STAR is able to offer.

The local STAR community has expressed great appreciation for continuing to have reliable ambulance service available where they live or come to hunt, fish, camp and travel through. The volunteers of STAR, who are the heart of STAR and key to its survival, have expressed repeatedly how grateful they are to have assistance to keep the ambulance service afloat. Many of them have renewed energy for their volunteerism and STAR hopes to continue to work with Humboldt County to carry on with this successful project.

**Program Budget**

EMT Position 40 hour/week @ \$15.00 per hour	1	\$31200.00
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Full Time Employee Benefits	2	\$13728.00 (\$6864.00 each)
Projected COLA and Overtime Hours		\$6400.00
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Total Project Cost		\$82528.00

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