



CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MEASURE Z EXPENDITURES

The Advisory Committee meets on each Wednesday in March to review applications and will make recommendations to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors in April.

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Agency Name: Southern Trinity Area Rescue
 Mailing Address: PO Box 7, Scotia, CA 95565
 Contact Person: Brooke Entsminger Title: EMS Manager
 Telephone: 707-574-6616 x 209 E-mail address: bentsminger@sthsclinic.org

1. AMOUNT OF MEASURE Z FUNDING REQUESTED FOR FY 2022-2023: \$ 198,575.00

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, Describe: _____ ☐

3. Is this application a renewal or related to a project that has been funded by *Measure Z* in the past?
 (check one) ☒ Yes ☐ No

4. Describe how the scope of your proposal fits the intent of *Measure Z*. Specifically, how will it maintain and improve public safety and essential services, as described on the previous page?

Southern Trinity Area Rescue (STAR) is a rural non-profit ambulance company that provides 911 emergency medical services. STAR is the only ambulance provider in its service area. 25% of STAR's emergency calls are located within Humboldt County or involve Humboldt County citizens. Without Measure Z funds STAR would not be able to continue providing this rural ambulance service and the response time for medical emergencies in this remote area of Humboldt county would increase by more than an hour minimum. Measure Z has helped STAR ambulance continue to exist and keep those critical response times down for the people who need that critical help.



5. Please provide a brief description of the 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 Highway 36 corridor. STAR currently is a partially volunteer staffed, non-profit service; however, due to changes in the local community and industry for the past 10 years STAR has experienced trouble recruiting enough volunteers to fully staff its ambulance. As a result, STAR has transitioned to having 4 paid fulltime EMT's to help alleviate some of the strain on the volunteers as well as make it possible for STAR to continue to serve its community and provide fulltime emergency medical care to this rural part of the county. In 2021 STAR received Measure Z funds and with them was able to employ 3 fulltime EMT's with great success. Currently we have 4 fulltime EMT's so there are no gaps in service. STAR would like to continue maintaining all 4 positions and needs Measure Z funds to continue to do so. With these 4 positions STAR can maintain being fully staffed and provide 911 ambulance service to a part of the county that would otherwise have none.

6. How have you developed a plan for sustainability, including diversification of funding sources, for your proposal to carry on without reliance on future *Measure Z* funds?

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. STAR did get a significant increase in onetime funding from Trinity County this year; however, our cost also increased this year. We are currently working with Trinity County toward a long-term solution for funding more of STARs operations through the state of California if possible. This is a long process as currently the state requires counties to provide ambulance service.

7. 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?

Currently Measure Z, and the sources mentioned in question #6 supply funding for STAR. Rural ambulance service is a non-profit business by nature and small communities that rely on it will always need financial assistance to keep it operational.

8. If you are awarded *Measure Z* funds, how do you plan to leverage these funds to secure 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, 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 will be of its importance. For instance, it is partially due to the example from Measure Z support for STAR for the past couple years that Trinity County is making an effort to secure more funds for its emergency services.

9. Will this proposal require new or expanded activity on the part of another entity to be fully functional and effective? If so, name that entity and describe what that participation would look like.

No



10. Are there recurring expenses associated with this application, such as personnel cost? Please check yes or no: ☒ Yes ☐ No

If you checked yes, detail those expenses here:

The sole purpose of this Measure Z application is to continue receiving the funds needed to fully staff our severely understaffed ambulance service by continuing to employ 4 full-time EMT's and maintain 24/7 ambulance coverage. One time grant funds for equipment and projects are easier to come by than continuous yearly assistance for operations and personnel. The Measure Z funds we have been awarded in the past have helped fill the funding gap and keep STAR ambulance operational.

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Include the following with your application, making sure to **limit your responses to one page, per section.** Responses longer than the maximum, may not be read by committee members or considered as part of your application

Proposal Narrative: Brief description of your request for Measure Z funds – Please explain how it is an essential service or improves 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: Please utilize the template provided on the following pages. This will need to be updated if your agency is approved for funding.

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: 2-11-22

SIGNATURE: 

SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETE APPLICATION TO:

Humboldt County Citizens' Advisory Committee on Measure Z Expenditures
c/o County Administrative Office
825 Fifth Street, Suite 112
Eureka, CA 95501-1153

Proposal Narrative

Southern Trinity Area Rescue (STAR) is a partially 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 to its service area. STAR covers a response area from 10 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 is 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 community to continuously raise money 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 5 years we have been at a critical point. Due to changes in community and industry in our area, our call volume remains constant, while our number of volunteers continues to shrink drastically. Last year we acquired Measure Z funds to employ the three 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 four days a week (96 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 in its 42nd year of service and, 2017 was the first year STAR ever requested and received any financial assistance from Humboldt County. STAR is asking to be granted Measure Z funds to pay for the three already existing EMT positions, as well as a fourth one. The fourth EMT position was created recently out of necessity by making internal cuts as well as some successful acquisition of one-time funds; however, those funds will not last into the next year. We are asking for Measure Z funding 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 20% of our resources are spent in Humboldt County, or on Humboldt County residents.

Call Summary 2021

	Humboldt	Trinity	Other
Emergency Medical Call Location	26	113	
Yearly Percent of Calls	18.7%	81.3%	
County of Residence for Patient Treated	31	83	32
Yearly Percent	21.2%	56.8%	21.9%

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 \$136,348.00 of Measure Z funds for the 2021-22 year to maintain three fulltime paid EMT's to help staff the ambulance and keep 911 medical services available in our remote part of Eastern Humboldt County.

STAR is currently staffing 4 fulltime paid EMT's, 3 of which have been on staff since July 2020 after receiving funding from Measure Z. These employees have given our volunteers some much needed relief and kept the ambulance operational by filling some of the open shifts that exist. The paid staff is very dedicated to STAR and help with extra activities above and beyond regular duties to continue to improve the ambulance. Because of this dedication we can offer quality service, care, and higher standards of operational ability.

Currently, with full time ambulance coverage 6 days a week, possible due to the above-mentioned funding for staff, STAR has been able to maintain reliable 911 coverage of its service area. Our service and coverage ability has seen some turmoil this year due to COVID, but these paid employees are the main reason our ambulance service is surviving these current events.

The effects of hiring 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.

STAR is asking Humboldt County to help us maintain these four positions for the 2022-23 year. Without these paid EMT positions STAR would no longer be able to provide continuous ambulance coverage in its service area.

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 on the Highway 36 corridor. The volunteers of STAR have expressed repeatedly how grateful they are to have assistance in keeping the ambulance service afloat and continue serving the community. STAR hopes to continue working with Humboldt County to carry on with this successful project.

Agency Name: Southern Trinity Area Rescue
Coordinator/Contact: Brooke Entsminger
Address: PO Box 7 Scotia CA
Phone: 707-574-6616 x 209

Costs

Requested Budget	Remaining Balance
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Title: EMT			
Salary and Benefits		49,643.75	-49643.75
Duties Description: Full time ambulance response			
Title: EMT			
Salary and Benefits		49,643.75	-49643.75
Duties Description: Full time ambulance response			
Title: EMT			
Salary and Benefits		49,643.75	-49643.75
Duties Description: Full time ambulance response			
Title:			
Salary and Benefits			0
Duties Description:			
Total Personnel:		198,575.00	0.00
B. Operational Costs (Rent, Utilities, Phones, etc.)			(198,575.00)
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Total Operating Costs:		0	0
C. Consumables/Supplies (Supplies and Consumables should be separate)			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			

Total Consumable/Supplies: 0

Total Consumable/Supplies:

PROPOSED BUDGET

Agency Name: Southern Trinity Area Rescue
Coordinator/Contact: Brooke Entsminger
Address: PO Box 7 Scotia CA
Phone: 707-574-6616 x 209

Descriptions	Costs	Requested Budget	Remaining Balance
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Total Transportation/Travel Costs:		0	0
E. Fixed Assets			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Total Other Costs:		0	0
Budget Total:		198,575.00	

GLENN ZIEMER, Chair – First District
ERNIE BRANSCOMB, Second District
GINGER CAMPBELL, Third District
NICHOLAS KOHL, Fourth District
SCOTT BINDER, Fifth District



JUSTIN ROBBINS, Vice-Chair, At Large
BOB BRONKALL, At-Large
SEAN ROBERTSON, Fire Chiefs Assoc.
WILLIAM HONSAL, Sheriff's Office
EDDIE MORGAN, Alternate
TAMI TRENT, Alternate

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON *MEASURE Z* EXPENDITURES

The Humboldt County Citizens' Advisory Committee on *Measure Z* Expenditures is now accepting applications for funding. *Measure Z*, Humboldt County's Public Safety/Essential Services Measure, is a half-cent sales tax, passed by the voters of Humboldt County during the November 2014 general election.

Measure Z will provide funds to maintain and improve public safety and essential services, such as:

- Investigating violent crimes, including rape and domestic violence;
- ✓ • Maintaining 911 emergency response times;
- Ensuring on-duty Sheriff's deputies;
- Providing drug treatment programs;
- Providing services for the victims of child abuse;
- ✓ • Maintaining rural fire protection and ambulance services; and
- Cleaning up environmentally-damaging marijuana farms and illegal dumping.

If you believe you provide public safety or essential services for Humboldt County, and would like to apply for *Measure Z* funding, an application for funding may be obtained on the County's website at www.humboldt.gov.org, or by contacting the Humboldt County Administrative Office, (707) 445-7266.

Applications for funding must be filed with the county administrative office BY 5:00 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 18, 2022. Postmarks are not acceptable for meeting this deadline.

Glenn Ziemer
Committee Chair

Justin Robbins
Committee Vice Chair