



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*.)

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FEB 08 2018
CAO

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: **\$ 80448.00**

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

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 Eastern Humboldt/ Southern Trinity County off Hwy 36. 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 having great trouble recruiting enough volunteers to fully staff the ambulance. STAR is still in the process of transitioning 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 2017 we received Measure Z funds and were able to hire one of the two EMTs with great success. We are now trying to complete the

stabilization of STAR by hiring a second EMT and filling the two needed paid coverage positions.

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 unable to divert any more funds to STAR than it already does, so we are looking into other funding sources such as Measure Z to keep STAR operational. In the future we are hoping to continue to improve our billing revenue and we have high hopes of being a part of the funding dispersed through Measure S. 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 acquire the funds needed to fully staff our severely understaffed ambulance service by hiring one full time EMT and continuing to employ the second full time EMT that was approved under Measure Z in 2017. One time grant funds for equipment and projects are easier to come by than continuous yearly assistance. STAR is aware that Measure Z sunsets in 2020, we feel

this assistance from the county in the years the funds do exists will keep the ambulance service open and operational while we work on a more permanent solution.

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: 2/8/2018

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

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*, 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.

Currently we are 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 has shrunk drastically. Last year we acquired Measure Z funds to hire one of the two full time EMT's we needed to keep STAR operational and supplement our volunteer run shifts. Last year we were also able to acquire one time funds from the Ruth Lake Community Services District to help pay for a second EMT to be a temporary position that we have been using. 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 has been serving Humboldt County for 40 years. Due to the changing economy, 2017 was the first year STAR requested 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 2017

	Humboldt	Trinity	Other County/State or Country
Total Emergency Medical Calls	34	157	1
Yearly Percent of Calls	18%	81%	0.01%
County of Residence for Patient Treated	35	71	28
Yearly Percent	26%	53%	21%

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 \$39600.00 of Measure Z funds for the 2017-18 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 successfully hired a full time EMT in October 2017 using these funds. This new employee has not only given our volunteers some needed relief and kept the ambulance operational by filling some of the open shifts that existed, but is dedicated to STAR and helps with extra activities above and beyond regular duties to continue to improve STAR so we have quality service, care and operational ability.

STAR was in need of two paid EMT positions starting in 2016 to remain operational long term. For 2017-18 STAR received funds from the Ruth Lake Community Service District to help aid in this goal as well. A second EMT was hired with these funds as a temporary position. These were one time funds that are not guaranteed yearly and did not completely cover a full time position for 12 months.

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 2018-19 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 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 due to having the burden of being severely under staff made more reasonable.

The effects of hiring EMT's to supplement our volunteer staff (for the first time ever) in 2017-18 have been nothing but positive. 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	2	\$62400.000 (\$31200.00 each)
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Full Time Employee Benefits	2	\$13728.00 (\$6864.00 each)
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Projected Overtime Hours		\$4320.00
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Total Project Cost		\$80448.00
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