



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 2090 E-mail address: bentsminger@sthsclinic.org

1. AMOUNT OF MEASURE Z FUNDING REQUESTED FOR FY 2023-2024: \$ 197,926.00

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 an hour minimum. Losing STAR would also cause local Eureka and Fortuna EMS resources to be pulled from their areas on a regular basis. 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 2022 STAR received Measure Z funds and with them was able to employ 4 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 was able to get an increase in yearly funding from Trinity County starting in 2022, however cost again have also increased. 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 or a private corporation. This is a long process as currently the state requires counties to provide ambulance service and we are still in the beginning stages. STAR has also begun work developing a support organization that might be able to fund STAR overtime if successful.

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.

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

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: 2/10/2023

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

Southern Trinity Area Rescue Prior Year Results

Southern Trinity Area Rescue (STAR) requested \$198,575.00, and was awarded \$158,575.00, of Measure Z funds for the 2022-23 year to employ four 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, and has been since receiving the funding from Measure Z. These employees have kept the STAR operational by staffing the ambulance the equivalent of 4 days a week. The paid staff is very dedicated to STAR and helps 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 weekend and weeknight ambulance coverage, possible due to the above-mentioned funding for staff, STAR has been able to maintain reliable 911 weekend and weeknight coverage of its service area throughout the year. Our service and coverage ability has seen some difficulties this year due to continued COVID fall out and general staffing shortages; but, these four paid employees are the main reason our ambulance service is surviving these current events.

The effects of having four 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 2023-24 year. Without these four paid EMT positions STAR would no longer be able to provide ambulance coverage in its service area. Lack of STAR's service would have a domino effect stressing the rest of the emergency services in Humboldt County. We have not added to our request that was approved last year, and are simply hoping to maintain this emergency service for our communities.

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.