



West Manatee Fire & Rescue District AED Incentive Program

The AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Incentive Program is a way to encourage local businesses to keep AEDs on their property and train employees in their use in case of emergencies. In summary, WMFR will apply for and hopefully receive a grant for several AEDs that we would in turn give out/loan out to local businesses. The incentive for a local business to receive a free AED can mean the difference between life and death.

The idea to provide AEDs to local businesses came about as a result of a cardiac arrest which occurred while an individual was visiting a local restaurant that did not have an AED on the premises. Fortunately, bystanders provided immediate medical assistance until our firefighter-paramedics arrived with their advanced training and equipment and were able to save his life. A couple of weeks after the event, the individual attended our monthly Governing Board meeting to publicly thank the bystanders and Fire District personnel who saved his life. This incident brought out the importance of having a way to provide a no-cost way for businesses (restaurants, shopping centers, hotels, and other places where large numbers of people gather) an incentive to have AEDs on-site and available for their staff and other bystanders/layerspersons to use in case of emergencies.

The grant will ask for 10 AEDs for starters as way to demonstrate this concept. Through our daily fire safety prevention inspections, we have already identified several businesses who are interested in receiving an AED. We already have record keeping methodology in place to track where the AEDs will be placed, the means to document training of business staff and periodic maintenance inspections and notify our local 911 system of the AED locations. If this first batch of AED deployment is successful, we would like to apply for additional units later on as well as assistance with maintenance costs for items like batteries, pads, etc. This is intended to be supported strictly by grants. Other than staff time involved with training and inspections, no WMFR public funds are requested or anticipated to be spent.

We are asking the WMFR Board to approve the application of this grant and this conceptual plan. If we are awarded the grant, we will come back to the board with details of any grant stipulations.

Respectably Submitted,

Randal Cooper
Chairman