

**2021 NACO Achievement Award Program
Nomination Summary
York County, Virginia**

Program Title: Automatic External Defibrillator Management

Program Category: Information Technology

1. Abstract of the Program

The potential use of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) by a citizen in a time of need is a critical resource that has no room for error. Tracking and management of AEDs placed in the community by governmental agencies is an ongoing responsibility. Through the use of York County Department of Fire and Life Safety personnel, LifeNet and PulsePoint programs, the department is able to ensure accountability and functionality of the AEDs.

2. The Problem/Need for the Program:

AEDs in the community have become more prevalent with private organizations and our local government placing units throughout the community. Potential liability issues and community standards establish the need to have these AEDs operational should the need arise. Whether it is an AED provided by the local government or a privately owned AED, it is imperative that efforts be developed to ensure that they are maintained and operational when needed.

3. Description of the Program

The Department of York County Fire and Life Safety has procured the use of the PulsePoint Application. Through this service, managers of the application can enter AED information for units in their respective jurisdictions. Private business owned AEDs can request that their information to be included into the application. Through this community interaction, PulsePoint application managers can enter data for expiration dates of defibrillation pads and service dates of the AEDs. Notifications in the system will advise the manager of the status of the defibrillation pads or the AED, prior to their expiration dates. Emails can then be sent to the owner/manager of the AED for replacement of necessary items, as their contact information is located within the program.

New Physio-Control brand CR2 AEDs integrate into an existing York County program known as LifeNet through WIFI. This integration notifies the manager of an issue with the batteries or an operational system malfunction with the AED in real time. They are constantly in communication with the program should an issue arise mechanically.

Automatic External Defibrillator Management York County, Virginia

On the first Thursday of every month, York County Department of Fire and Life Safety personnel evaluate the AEDs in their respective fire station districts. They assess the unit for damage, the housing cabinet functionality, operability of the AED, and they also verify the expiration dates of defibrillation pads. Potential issues are identified early so that maintenance can occur in a timely manner, aiding to avoid a mishap.

4. Cost of the Program

Costs of personnel work flow is absorbed through day-to-day activities. Maintenance of the cabinets at AED locations are approximately \$1,500 annually. PulsePoint is a subscription service which costs the County of York approximately \$3,500 annually. AED defibrillation pads/batteries are purchased through the vendor at approximately \$90 a unit, and replaced every two years. (New defibrillation pads and batteries are expected to last four years.)

5. The Results/Success of the Program

Currently, York County and local businesses have 42 verified AEDs available to the community, should a sudden cardiac arrest happen. The availability of the units to the community increases awareness of potential events and preparedness of citizens, spurs interest in Hands Only programs and the PulsePoint app. This increased awareness of a potential sudden cardiac arrest event engages the community to aid in helping to save a life.

6. Worthiness of an Award

The York County Department of Fire and Life Safety believes this prestigious award is warranted due to the benefit to the community, public safety personnel and travelers through the County. The initiative to place AEDs throughout the community and creatively manage to ensure functionality creates confidence in the ability of a citizen to help save another person's life.