

Automatic External Defibrillator Grants

Budget Language

\$150,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 is provided solely for the office for grants to school districts to install at least one automatic external defibrillator. The office shall establish a grant program to assist school districts to offset the costs of purchasing an automatic external defibrillator (AED) or to maintain or replace an AED.

Proviso Purpose

This proviso was created to assist school districts to offset the costs of purchasing Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs). An estimated 2000 children die each year from sudden cardiac arrest, and 4% of schools can expect to have a cardiac arrest occur on campus. Early and effective CPR has been demonstrated to double or triple the chance of SCA survival. Survival rates are significantly higher in schools where an AED is provided by the school. In Washington state, no mandate exists for schools to have automated external defibrillators (AEDs) or have universal CPR/AED training for staff. There are significant differences in access to AEDs and responders trained in CPR for communities of color and those living with higher rates of poverty nationally.

Services Provided

Grants were structured to allow schools to purchase a minimum of one AED and required accessories such as wall cabinets and signage, and to fund CPR/AED training.

OSPI provided a webinar the month before the grant application process was launched, in partnership with Project Adam and American Heart Association, to help schools understand how to implement assurances and submit applications. Both organizations offered on-going support for purchase of AEDs, staff training, and policy implementation.

Criteria for Receiving Services/Grants

Criteria for receiving grants were the following:

- Schools with no AEDs or AEDs that were expired (no longer serviceable due to age).
- Poverty
- Racial diversity
- Site coordinator
- Minimum 5 staff members with CPR/AED training
- Implementation of Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP)

Awards were prioritized for funding AEDs in schools that did not have an AED or did not have enough AEDs to allow access in critical areas: athletics, gymnasiums, large campus – or within three minutes of any campus area per the



recommendations of the American Heart Association (AHA) and Project Adam, an organization that works to help schools prepare to respond to sudden cardiac arrest.

Beneficiaries in the 2024-25 School Year

Number of School Districts:	34
Number of Schools:	34
Number of Students:	153,048
Number of Educators:	Unknown
Other (AEDs purchased):	35

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No.

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2025	\$150,000	\$140,538

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2025	

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

This body of work has been discontinued by the legislature. Beginning July 1, 2025 OSPI is no longer implementing this grant program.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

OSPI received 67 applications requesting 282 AEDs. The number of AEDs requested in each application ranged from 1 to 27. Out of the 66 districts that applied:

- Only two districts reported having no AEDs at all.
- A total of eight districts reported having AEDs in some schools and not others.
- One of these districts reported having 15 schools with no AEDs.

The majority of districts reported having AEDs that were aging out and could no longer be serviced.

Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

Forty-four districts were awarded grants of \$3000 each based on criteria of need (no AEDs or AEDs that are aged out), poverty rates, and student diversity, representing a combined student body 171,388 children and youth. Unfortunately, nine of the awardee districts experienced challenges in fulfilling grant requirements and finalizing awards resulting in 34 total completed grants. At least one of these districts purchased an AED but did not submit final claims despite multiple reminders. Follow up communications indicated that the school nurse and other relevant support staff in the smaller districts were not always aware that their administration had applied for these grants.

Future Opportunities

Sixty-seven districts applied for the grants, requesting a total of 282 AEDs, indicating a high need for replacing AEDs which are aging out and can no longer be serviced. Additionally, districts frequently requested assistance with replacing pads and batteries which create significant outlays every few years for districts with existing AEDs. Future grant funding with improvements in communication and follow up processes to ensure districts purchase AEDs and are empowered to complete the requirements of the grants would be beneficial.

Other Relevant Information

The American Heart Association (AHA) has a stated goal of passing legislation to mandate Cardiac Emergency Response Plans in every school in the 2026 legislative session. This would necessitate having an AED in every building and would increase the fiscal burden on districts. The AHA and Project Adam remain committed to supporting schools in readiness to respond to sudden cardiac arrest.

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2025 Fiscal Year.](#)

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