

The Lifeline Grant

Community First Responder Recertification Grant (CFR-RG)

About the Grant

This grant helps community-based first responders maintain life-saving certifications by reducing the cost of recertification. The program is designed to support volunteer and under-resourced responder organizations that may otherwise struggle to keep personnel current.

The annual program fund is **\$30,000**, supported jointly by Laerdal and the GMR Foundation. Funding is intended for **BLS and ALS recertification** delivered through **100% online or blended learning formats**, such as online coursework with a local skills check. This is a **two-year grant**, with **100% of eligible course costs funded in year one** and **50% funded in year two**. The program fund may be split among multiple awardees, depending on the need of applicants.

The goal is to make recertification more accessible, efficient and affordable so more responders can remain active in their communities.

Who Is Eligible to Apply?

The grant is intended for community-based first responder organizations seeking support for BLS or ALS recertification. Applications are prioritized based on service type and community need.

- **Priority Tier 1:** Volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel serving rural or underfunded districts.
- **Priority Tier 2:** Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members and reserve police personnel.
- **Priority Tier 3:** Nonprofit community health volunteers.
- **Priority Tier 4:** Educational Institutions with instructor-lead programs

What the Grant Covers

Grant funds may be used for BLS and ALS recertification courses. A typical online BLS recertification costs about **\$60**, and a typical ALS recertification costs about **\$200**. Because course types may be mixed, organizations may request support for a combination of BLS and ALS recertifications based on their needs.

Funding is limited to recertification-related course costs only. **Administrative costs, overhead and unrelated expenses are not covered.**

The program requires a **two-year agency commitment**. By accepting the grant, awardees agree to cover the remaining **50% of eligible recertification costs in year two**. The grant is intended to serve as **seed funding** so organizations can establish or strengthen a sustainable recertification program and continue it on their own after the initial grant period.

How to Apply

The application process is intentionally streamlined so eligible organizations can apply without extensive paperwork.

Online Application

1. **Submit an application** that includes the following:
 - **Proof of current/expired certifications**
2. **Applications are reviewed on a rolling, first-come, first-served basis** until available funds are exhausted.
3. **Approved organizations receive support through a voucher code** so funds are used directly for eligible course costs.

Course Requirements

To support consistent, high-quality training, the grant covers AHA HeartCode Complete accredited courses for eligible BLS and ALS recertifications.

HeartCode Complete combines self-paced online learning with a required hands-on skills evaluation. Successful participants receive an AHA eCard valid for two years.

After an Award Is Made

Organizations that receive funding should be prepared to report on the impact of the grant at the end of the grant cycle. This may include the number of certifications completed, the reach of the program in the community, and the cost efficiency of the recertification effort.