



Franklin County

A Natural Setting for Opportunity

PRESS RELEASE

COUNTY PARTNERS WITH CARILION FRANKLIN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND RECEIVES \$100,000 GRANT IN SECURING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED)

For Immediate Release

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For Additional Information:

Please Contact Christopher Whitlow, Assistant County Administrator (540) 483-3030

Rocky Mount, Virginia --- The County of Franklin, Virginia today welcomed Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital and many local agencies to celebrate the deployment of numerous automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in the community. “Through a public-private collaboration among Franklin County, Henry County and Carilion Franklin Memorial, the County was able to secure federal funding in the amount of \$99,900. The County was one of only five (5) communities nationally to receive this Health Resources and Services Administration grant for the placement of AEDs in the Franklin – Henry County area” stated Daryl Hatcher, Director of Public Safety. “The County is grateful to the staff of Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital for their assistance in preparing and securing the grant to purchase these life saving devices” stated Christopher Whitlow, Assistant County Administrator.

The grant required no local matching funds and has allowed approximately 43 AEDs to be placed in multiple public locations throughout the community including Franklin County Public Schools, County Parks and other government facilities, and area agencies, such as STEP, the Free Clinic, and the Rocky Mount and Ferrum College Police Departments. “Within the past five years, Franklin County began placing defibrillators in Sheriff’s Department patrol cars in an effort to decrease the amount of time a patient goes untreated in cardiac arrest. With the success of this program, local leaders have searched for ways to increase the number of defibrillators available to the community” noted William Ferguson, Public Safety Operations Division Chief.

The use of cardiac defibrillators in treating patients suffering from cardiac arrest has been the standard of care for decades. Within recent years, automatic defibrillators have been placed in public areas throughout the nation for CPR trained citizens to begin resuscitation prior to arrival of emergency medical personnel. In addition to the AED devices, the Health Resources and Services Administration grant will provide funding for CPR / AED training courses to the citizens of Franklin County. Anyone interested in such CPR training, should contact the Franklin County Department of Public Safety at 540-483-3091.

Also, for more information, project details, and training information please visit the Franklin County Public Safety website: <http://www.franklincountyva.gov/public-safety>