

# 2026 WOMEN UNITED GRANT APPLICATION FORM

## Organization Information

**Organization Name**

Lancaster EMS

**EIN**

23-2840702

**Project Name**

Lancaster EMS Blood Program

**Address**

715 Fairview Avenue  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603  
United States

**Contact Name**

Brittany Grear

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**Executive Director / President (If different)**

C. Robert May

## Eligibility Criteria

**Is your organization a registered nonprofit organization with an official letter of determination of 501c3 status from the Internal Revenue Service?**

Yes

**Has your organization operated in Lancaster County for at least one year (operating in Lancaster before July 1, 2025)?**

Yes

**Does your organization or program you are requesting funding for in this application serve primarily women and/ or teen girls?**

Yes

**Does your organization provide services to families at or below the ALICE threshold in Lancaster County?**

Yes

**Is your organization delinquent on any state or federal debt?**

No

**Does your organization share United Way's view of collaborative and inclusive service to the entire community, without excluding anyone on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, ethnicity, national**

**origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or any other factor not relevant to a person's eligibility for service or ability to contribute?**

Yes

**Has your organization update your listing with PA 211 in the last 12 months?**

Yes

## **Application Elements**

### **Executive Summary**

Women's health care has made strides over the years but maternal and postpartum care remains an issue, especially for women of color. Postpartum hemorrhage affects millions of women every year and often requires treatment in the prehospital environment. Blood administration can improve recovery outcomes and save lives during such a medical emergency, but blood is not commonly available with emergency medical services agencies in Lancaster County. To support women's health and safety, Lancaster EMS is seeking funding to create a blood program, making blood available on three of our emergency response vehicles.

### **Organization Description**

Mission: We save lives and empower healthier living by providing comprehensive, innovative, and sustainable mobile medical health care services.

Lancaster EMS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ambulance service. We provide primary 9-1-1 services to 19 municipalities encompassing over 275,000 Lancaster County residents. We are also one of the few remaining options available to Lancaster residents for non-emergency transportation to medical appointments or transfer between medical facilities. We pioneered a Community Paramedicine Program in Lancaster County, delivering preventive care and outreach to our vulnerable populations. Lancaster EMS also operates an in-house EMT Academy, an EMT-Basic Certification Course offering candidates a unique "earn while you learn" paid training approach to addressing EMS workforce shortages. Education is available for the community via CPR classes and specialized programs like our New Parent Program. Our commitment to proactive healthcare, workforce development, and community engagement make us a vital asset to Lancaster County's well-being.

### **Commitment to Equity**

Lancaster EMS provides primary 9-1-1 services to 19 municipalities encompassing over 275,000 Lancaster County residents. Additionally, Lancaster EMS provides secondary coverage to all 550,000 residents of Lancaster County through a network of mutual aid obligations with other ambulance services. Lancaster County racial and ethnic demographics have shifted rapidly over the past forty years toward more diversity in the community, and Lancaster EMS employees closely reflect the current demographics. In 2025, 23.6 percent of Lancaster EMS employees identified with minority groups, compared to a county minority population of 21.6 percent (by race and ethnicity) in the 2020 census.

This project addresses the health care issue identified in the Racial Equity Profile. According to the profile, "Life expectancy, a key indicator for health and opportunity, is highest among Asian or Pacific Islander and white residents in the county. Black residents have the shortest life expectancy at 75 years, compared to 80 years for white residents." The profile also states that the Latino community will grow to 20 percent of the overall population by 2050, from the current 11 percent; and the Black community will grow from 4 percent to 6 percent in the same period. The county's minority population is projected to grow from 19 percent in 2020 to nearly 33 percent in 2050.

These racial inequities in healthcare also appear in maternal and postpartum care for women. A study, published in the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology Maternal-Fetal Medicine examining racial differences in treatment for postpartum hemorrhage, found that "Black and Hispanic patients were less likely to have received higher levels of intervention than White patients. This difference persisted at an estimated blood loss of  $\geq 3000$  mL, with Black and Hispanic patients being significantly less likely to receive higher levels of intervention than White patients."

## Proposal Details

### Main Priority Area

Women's and/ or Teen's Health

### Grant Dollar Amount Requested

\$16,381.76

### What percent of the overall project budget is covered by the Women United grant?

100

### Will this program/project start or continue to operate if you do not receive 100% of the funding requested?

Yes

### Project Description

Despite improvements over time, maternal mortality in the United States and across the globe remain high. According to the World Health Organization, more than 700 women die every day from complications from pregnancy and childbirth, most of which are preventable. At 27 percent, post-partum hemorrhage is the leading cause of maternal mortality worldwide. Blood can be administered during prehospital blood transfusion to treat severe bleeding, but it is not widely carried on emergency response units.

In 2025, Lancaster EMS developed a partnership with Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health to carry whole blood overnight when their Penn Med One unit (an ALS Prehospital Physician Response Vehicle) goes out of service. This has been a great opportunity to provide whole blood in the field more often, but it has not been enough to meet the needs of our community. Lancaster EMS only has access to the whole blood at night, and there are many nights where we are still not able to access it at all. Penn Medicine is also planning to increase the hours of Penn Med One from 12 to 16, so the blood would be available to us even less frequently. To ensure the best possible care for Lancaster County residents, Lancaster EMS is seeking to carry blood and have it available 24/7.

In the last two years, Lancaster EMS has responded to 243 calls for OB/GYN related conditions. This includes hemorrhage, pregnancy complications, labor and delivery, and obstetric trauma. Of those calls, 24% required some type of advanced life support intervention (such as Pitocin, tranexamic acid, IV fluids, etc.) where their condition could have benefited from blood administration if available. Since we started carrying the blood from Penn Med One in October 2025, the majority of the administrations have been used to treat postpartum hemorrhage.

Funds from this grant will be used to provide training and purchase infrastructure needed to carry blood in the form of packed cells and plasma 24/7 on three of our emergency response squad vehicles. The first will be our "Medic 600" shift supervisor vehicle. The second will be the vehicle based out of our Quarryville station, and the third will be based at our East Lampeter station. Our emergency response district is large and diverse, running from Lancaster City down to Kirkwood. Transport times can often be 30 minutes from these more distant coverage areas. We also respond to a number of calls in the Plain community, where home births are common and patients would benefit from receiving blood. Having blood stocked and ready on vehicles at these 3 locations throughout the County will ensure that the blood arrives quickly when it is needed.

### Collaboration

Lancaster EMS will modify our current partnership with Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health. Instead of carrying blood from Penn Med One when available, Penn Medicine will provide Lancaster EMS with packed red blood cells and plasma that we will carry 24/7. Packed red blood cells and plasma are effective for acute blood loss and trauma and last longer than whole blood. The blood from LGH will be provided at no cost to us. To help support the program, Lancaster EMS will host quarterly blood drives benefitting the Penn Medicine blood bank. Lancaster EMS has worked with Penn Medicine for years and this project will continue our sustainable, ongoing partnership.

## Implementation Plan

Lancaster EMS will purchase the necessary materials to equip three of our emergency response squad vehicles to carry blood. All Lancaster EMS Captains have already completed a Prehospital Blood Product Administration educational course recognized by the PA Department of Health Bureau of EMS, and are trained and have experience with how to handle and administer blood in the field. It is the responsibility of all Lancaster EMS supervisory personnel to comply with PA Department of Health Bureau of EMS Protocol related to the delivery of blood products. To support this blood program, all full-time and part-time advanced life support (ALS) staff will need to receive training as well (40 employees).

The Lancaster EMS Medical Director will ensure that continuing education is offered in patient selection, documentation of blood product type and unit labeling, volume administered, patient vitals and temperature, monitoring for and treatment of transfusion reaction, appropriate receiving center handoff, and use of this protocol. The Medical Director will also ensure that training has been completed and compliance with proper blood product storage and transit procedures, proper blood product assessment, and paperwork handling.

Lancaster EMS staff will pick up the blood from Penn Medicine LGH. The used cooler will be dropped off and a filled cooler will be ready to EMS staff to take with them. Blood will be exchanged every 48 hours. Lancaster EMS will also monitor the effectiveness of the three stations/vehicles used to carry blood. If needed, the equipment can be moved from one vehicle to another to ensure optimum location to treat patients throughout the County.

## Outcomes & Evaluation

Our primary goals for this program are to improve access, health and safety, and equity for women in our community.

**Access:** This project will improve access to prehospital blood administration for women across Lancaster County. They deserve the highest standard of care, and carrying blood at all times will allow Lancaster EMS to meet that standard.

**Health & Safety:** Administering blood in the field will improve maternal health outcomes of female patients suffering from postpartum hemorrhage in the prehospital environment. Having blood available can save lives, reduce complications, and improve recovery times.

**Equity:** Reduce racial inequities in postpartum care, especially for Black and Latina patients. Carrying blood will allow us to provide the highest level of intervention for all patients, paying special attention to administration for women of color.

Metrics:

- Number of times whole blood is administered in the field
- Amount of blood used
- Gender and ethnicity of person receiving blood (when available)
- Number of cases involving postpartum hemorrhage
- Patient outcome (when available) or hospital outcome
- Responding squad vehicle location

Data for these metrics will be tracked via ESO, our electronic health record software used to complete patient charts. We will use ESO data to create a report that will measure the impact and success of the blood program.

## Documents

### Required Documents

- [Board-of-Directors-Lancaster-EMS.docx-1.pdf](#)
- [2024-Financial-Statement-3.pdf](#)
- [2026-Budget.pdf](#)
- [Lancaster-EMS-Blood-Program-budget.xlsx](#)
- [Lancaster-EMS-IRS-Determination-Letter-9.pdf](#)

