



## Grant Subaward Programmatic Narrative

Grant Subaward #: \_\_\_\_\_

Subrecipient: XYZ CERT

Problem Statement – XYZ CERT was chartered in 2019 by the County Fire District operating together under a Joint Powers Agreement. To our knowledge it is the only fully active and fully FEMA complaint CERT program in the county. John Peters, a volunteer, trained in basic CERT, CERT Train the Trainer, and CERT Program Manager was appointed Program Manager. During its first year of operation more than 85 volunteers received the full FEMA approved CERT training and a Teen CERT program was established. Due to Covid, in-person training ceased in February 2020 although online classes were conducted as well as public education and awareness programs. Two additional trainers were certified using the FEMA virtual TTT program. Starting in late 2021 using the Hybrid CERT training program on additional 17 basic CERT volunteers were trained and in early 2022 an additional 14 Teen CERTs and 4 adult CERTs were trained. Each training cycle (there have been 7) had a mini-disaster simulation. In August 2021 we held a large-scale disaster simulation drill with volunteer first responders that included live fire suppression, search and rescue (both outside and in darkened buildings with simulated collapsed walls), jaws of life automobile extraction, triage, rescue carriers, and medical operations and secondary assessment. This was done with full moulage, volunteer victims, and was able to be observed by 1500 members of the public as it was done at a CERT Wildfire & Earthquake Safety Expo. In addition



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to online trainings, we trained 114 high school juniors and seniors in CPR/AED and First Aid; and we recruited 14 RNs, 1 EMT, and 3 MDs to assist us as part of our medical operations team. Several of our CERT volunteers are bilingual and one of our trainers is bilingual but we need to reach out to the local Hispanic community to recruit more CERTs and CERT trainers. We have two more bi-lingual candidates for the next TTT class. The District is about 97% coterminous with the School District. 17% of the population is over age 65. 35% of the population is Hispanic or Latino. 16.1% of households have income less than \$25,000 and 38.3% of households have income less than \$44,999. Our teen CERT program is designed to reach out to students – 60% of who are considered economically disadvantaged and only 18.4% are considered fluent in English. Economic well-being or lack thereof is correlated with greater risk, and we need to train these high school juniors and seniors to help enable us to reach their families. With support from this grant, we can expand our Spanish only and bi-lingual trainings and reach this community at higher risk. We clearly have the capacity to deliver high quality CERT training to our community and we offer many advanced CERT training programs as well (radios, animal evacuation, shelter management, evacuation traffic control, etc.)

Program Plan – We will continue to offer Basic CERT and Teen CERT programs in our area. We believe all basic CERT trained volunteers should also be trained in



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CPR/AED and First Aids (as certified by Red Cross). We will work with some local Latinx volunteer groups to recruit volunteers and conduct CERT training in Spanish until we can stand up Spanish language teams as needed during disasters and emergencies.

All or gear, training aids and instructional materials are available in Spanish and even our OneCallNow alerting, and notification system is deployed in both English and Spanish. But those materials (which cost about \$75 per CERT volunteer) are given free to all Teen CERTs and any other volunteers who cannot afford them. And the instruction while largely conducted by volunteers does require a modest stipend to EMT First Responders since they give up an entire day.

When we have been officially activated and deployed either due to wildfires or the pandemic, we have struggled to have enough Hispanic volunteers to ensure that, for example, “wellness checks” could be conducted in the language of the resident. Our emergency operations plan for staffing and local emergency shelter requires that we use CERT English-Spanish teams for intake screening as we provide feeding and sheltering services to mostly vulnerable populations during evacuations. This too has been a challenge for us. We expect this grant to enable us to recruit and train in our Latinx and farmworker community to avoid that problem in the future.



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By using “outdoor” projector and speakers and a screen we can avoid having to pay rent for a training facility because we can use (with permission from the City and County) public spaces. This reduces the costs of additional training sessions.

To reach the maximum number of volunteers we have agreed to conduct

training anytime and in any location when we can secure 10 or more volunteers. Much of the equipment we issue to CERTs has been donated and we have

training aids that have been given to us in a grant from a local high school. But

there is no way to provide CPR/AED and First Aid certified training from the Red Cross or American Heart without a fee per student and while some CERT

candidates can afford to and do pay that fee, our Teen CERTs and farmworker

community cannot afford it. This grant will allow us to recruit and train a minimum of 100 additional CERTs who require this subsidy and an estimated 150 overall

some of whom pay for their own equipment and fees.

Our County CERT is conducting classroom-based, instructor let, CERT training

based on the 20-hour FEMA curriculum, incorporating all nine module and all

hands-on exercises.