CARDIAC READY COMMUNITY: RENEWAL APPLICATION GUIDE

Updated 2026

SOUTH DAKOTA CARDIAC READY COMMUNITY

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SOUTH DAKOTA CARDIOVASCULAR COLLABORATIVE

About Cardiac Ready Programs

The Cardiac Ready Program focuses on educating, equipping, and empowering communities across South Dakota to be better prepared and more confident in helping somebody who is experiencing a cardiac event before the ambulance arrives, as well as promoting heart health in places of living, learning and work. The Cardiac Ready Program runs through a partnership of the SD Department of Health (DOH), South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care, and the Cardiovascular Collaborative, a voluntary group of SD medical and public health professionals working to improve the quality of life through the prevention and control of heart disease and stroke. Since 2017, the South Dakota Cardiovascular Collaborative has been working to improve the quality of life for all by preventing and managing cardiovascular disease and its associated risk factors. The Cardiovascular Collaborative focuses on advancing health equity, optimizing health through chronic disease prevention, improving response to acute cardiovascular incidents, and supporting disease management.

In 2018, the Cardiovascular Collaborative initiated the Cardiac Ready Community Program, which creates a system of care prepared to help community members experiencing a cardiac event. The Cardiac Ready Program promotes the American Heart Association (AHA) Chain of Survival, which can improve the chances of survival and recovery for victims of cardiac events. This model is now expanded to include the Cardiac Ready Campus designation to promote hearth health in South Dakota's post-secondary institutions such as trade schools, vocational schools, technical schools, colleges & universities.

Please visit Cardiac Ready Communities | South Dakota Department of Health (sd.gov) for more information and to hear about other communities that have achieved this designation.

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This renewal application is created for communities previously designated as Cardiac Ready Communities. After the first three years, the renewal application ensures continued commitment to cardiac emergency preparedness, public education, and heart health. Communities must demonstrate ongoing efforts, improvements, and sustainability across all categories. Once the renewal application is reviewed and approved, an additional three years of Cardiac Ready Community designation is awarded.

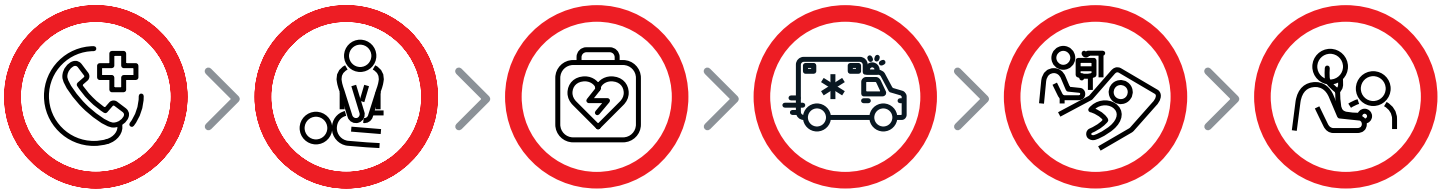
Renewal Application Checklist

- ☐ Updated documentation for each section
- ☐ Summary of progress since initial designation
- ☐ New goals and sustainability strategies
- ☐ Up-to-date Cardiac Ready Program transition document
- ☐ Signed letter of intent for renewal

Cardiac Ready Community Program Overview

The Cardiac Ready Community program focuses on educating, equipping, and empowering local community members to be better prepared and more confident in helping someone experiencing a cardiac event before the ambulance arrives.

The CRC Program promotes the American Heart Association (AHA) Chain of Survival, which can improve the chances of survival and recovery for victims of cardiac events.



The Cardiac Ready Community program is managed by the South Dakota Department of Health and the South Dakota Cardiovascular Collaborative, an interdisciplinary group of health professionals working across the state to improve the quality of life through the prevention and control of heart disease and stroke. Please contact Stephanie Hanson at stephanie.hanson@sdfmc.org with any questions or resources and requests for additional support.

Focus Area 1 | Early Access to Emergency Care

The intention of this section is to document community trainings, collaboration with schools and Cardiac Emergency Response Plans completed in your community and to get an idea of how you intend to continue to improve access and awareness to emergency care.

Please complete the following table to indicate community CPR/AED Trainings Completed:

TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL TRAINED Y1	TOTAL TRAINED Y2	TOTAL TRAINED Y3	TOTAL % POPULATION TRAINED OVERALL

Provide updated logs for each CPR/AED training event held in the past 3 years. Attach your document(s) that show event date, location, # participants.
[attachment file name]

Describe how you will continue collaboration with schools. Please include examples of partners, proposed events, education activities, etc.

Submit your Community Emergency Response Plan (CERP). Be sure to include the specific government site or other community gathering place of the CERP(s) and how this plan was/is communicated to the community. [attachment file name]

Focus Area 2 | Early Defibrillation / AED Identification

The intention of this section is to ensure continued readiness and accessibility of AEDs throughout the community. Communities should look to maintain or expand their AED coverage. It's essential that all AEDS remain in an emergency-ready state through regular checks, maintenance, and documentation. Ongoing awareness of AED locations and regular training are key components of these continued efforts.

Renewal Requirements

Submit updated AED location list or map.
Provide current list/map of all AEDs including new placements sense designation.
[attachment file name]

Provide maintenance logs that document dates of routine checks, battery replacements, and pad expiration dates for each AED.
[attachment file name]

Show documentation that all law enforcement/fire/EMS organizations have access to AEDs.
[attachment file name]

Provide documentation of public awareness efforts.
Include examples of community outreach activities that promote AED awareness through social media posts, training events held, and/or public signage.
[attachment file name]

Focus Area 3 | Early Advanced Cardiac Arrest Care & Post-Arrest Care

The intention of this section is to make sure communities maintain current EMS transport plans to support timely and efficient patient care. Ensure dispatcher T-CPR training remains current and continue to comply with EKG standards for patients with chest pain.

Renewal Requirements

Provide an updated transport plan.

Submit the most recent version of your transport plan, to ensure routes, facilities, and procedures are up to date.

[attachment file name]

Submit documentation of dispatcher training refreshers.

Show records verifying dispatchers have completed current T-CPR refresher training or continuing education within the past three years.

[attachment file name]

Provide confirmation that EKGS are completed for all patients presenting with chest pain.

Show documentation of established protocol and meeting quality standards.

[attachment file name]

Focus Area 4 | Community Heart Health

The intention of this section is to support ongoing efforts that improve overall heart health within the community. Communities are encouraged to continue or expand local health initiatives that promote wellness and prevention. Focusing on increasing access to screenings, encouraging healthy living, and supporting tobacco initiatives. In addition, communities should maintain or update AED ordinances.

Renewal Requirements

Provide an updated list of healthy eating initiatives and physical activity programs.
Include documentation of any current or new community health activities, such as event flyers, participation numbers, or success stories that highlight local impact
[attachment file name]

Include documentation of blood pressure, nutrition security, and vascular screenings.
Submit records of recent community screenings, include dates, event location, #participation
[attachment file name]

Provide a List of commercial tobacco control efforts.
Show documentation of educational efforts, flyers, and promotion of tobacco cessation
[attachment file name]

Submit any new or revised ordinances.
Provide copies of any recently adopted or updated AED ordinance.[attachment file name]

Focus Area 5 | Sustainability Plan

In this section, we want to ensure long-term success and growth of the CRC initiative. Communities should demonstrate ongoing plans and engagement to sustain their efforts that build on previous accomplishments. Please review and show progress from previous goals and set new ones. Focusing on ongoing AED/CPR training, AED placement, continuing heart health events and identifying new concerns to improve overall health of your community.

Renewal Requirements

Submit updated CPR/AED training and AED placement plans.

Submit documentation showing community CPR training/class schedules, AED locations, or any updates to keep AEDs and training current.

[attachment file name]

Provide documentation of community event participation.

Share photos, flyers and or summaries from events where the community engaged in heart health activities

[attachment file name]

Describe any updates on partnerships and share information about any new health initiatives.

Report on progress toward Year 1 goals at Year 1.

Summarize accomplishments, challenges, and outcomes related to goals set in the first year.

[attachment file name]

Report on Progress toward Year 2 goals at Year 2.

Summarize accomplishments, challenges, and outcomes related to goals set in the second year.

Set new goals for the next 3 years.

Outline clear, achievable goals for the upcoming three-year period, including details of goals to reach in each year.

Showcase your community's journey—submit stories, key accomplishments, lessons learned, and any photos that capture your efforts. Together, we can learn, celebrate, and grow.

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