

# Rhode Island HeartSafe Community Program

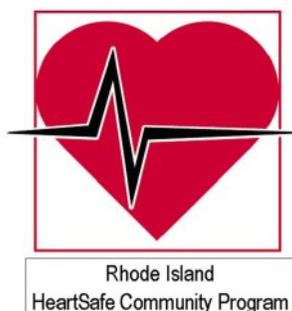
## Information and Criteria Packet



Rhode Island  
HeartSafe Community Program



# DO YOU LIVE IN A HEARTSAFE COMMUNITY?



If someone in your community suffers a **sudden cardiac arrest**, how likely is he or she to survive due to rapid access to life-saving treatment? The Rhode Island Department of Health and the American Heart Association are striving to help the Rhode Island's cities and towns improve their cardiovascular health and increase the chances that citizens suffering a cardiovascular emergency will have the best possible chance for survival.

## **CITY AND TOWN OFFICIALS, PLEASE ASK YOURSELVES THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY**

- Most cardiac arrests occur outside a hospital: How many residents and public safety officials in your community can recognize the symptoms of cardiac arrest and know how to get help “on the way, right away”?
- Who knows **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)** in your community and is prepared to administer CPR when necessary?
- Does your community's police department respond to medical emergencies? Are they trained and equipped with **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)**? Where are the AEDs located?
- Does your **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** provider have 12-lead **Electrocardiogram (EKG)** capability? Are they trained in Advanced Cardiac Life Support?

The answers to these questions could determine whether or not your community qualifies as a HeartSafe Community.

# Make your Community HeartSafe

Designation as a HeartSafe Community represents a coordinated effort by emergency medical services, fire departments, police departments, and various town departments, schools, and businesses that are committed to saving lives! By becoming a HeartSafe Community, your town, city officials, and citizens will be recognized for taking the time, and making the effort, to become an invaluable link in the chain-of-survival.

## You can qualify as a Rhode Island HeartSafe Community in a HEARTBEAT

The Rhode Island HeartSafe Community Program is available to the 39 chartered cities and towns in Rhode Island. **HEARTBEAT** points are given to a community for each activity that furthers the goal of saving lives from cardiac arrest.

### Examples of activities that earn HEARTBEATS are:

- CPR/AED classes
- Placement of AEDs in public places
- Promoting CPR/AED response through public safety officials
- Developing a process to evaluate your HeartSafe program

The number of **HEARTBEATS** required to become a HeartSafe Community depends on the population of the city or town.

Once designation is established, the community is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of **HeartSafe** status. A new application must be sent in and reviewed for continued HeartSafe Community status every three years from the date of designation.

# Chain-of-Survival

There are critical steps that can improve the chances of survival from cardiac arrest. The American Heart Association calls these steps the “**Chain-of-Survival**”.

The goal of the HeartSafe Community Program is to strengthen the chain-of-survival at the municipal level:

- Early access to emergency care
- Bystanders recognize the symptoms of cardiac arrest and call 9-1-1 immediately. EMS dispatchers are equipped with instructions for the caller and can get Advanced Life Support response vehicles to the scene quickly.
- Early CPR
- CPR, when properly administered, buys precious minutes until a defibrillator is available. Public knowledge and awareness must be increased so that individuals trained in CPR will actually use it when needed.
- Early defibrillation
- Defibrillation is the delivery of electric shock (using an AED) to restore the heart’s normal rhythm. Early defibrillation is considered to be the most critical link in the chain of survival. New AEDs are lightweight, sturdy, and easy to use by anyone who has been trained.
- Early advanced care

Advanced life support is delivered by an emergency medical service response vehicle staffed by EMT-Paramedics and EMT-Cardiacs. Medications and oxygen therapy delivered by paramedics and EMT-Intermediates can be critical to the survival of cardiac arrest victims.



## Criteria Worksheet

Please use the following worksheet to calculate your community's HEARTBEATS prior to completing the HeartSafe Community application:

Community Population	Overall Minimum <b>HEARTBEATS</b> Required
Up to 5,000	400
5,001 – 30,000	500
30,001 – 50,000	600
50,001 – 100,000	700
100,001 – 150,000	800
150,001 or more	900

**Community Population** \_\_\_\_\_

All communities are required to complete the following criteria regardless of population:

### **Question 1: + 50 HEARTBEATS**

A lead organization (e.g., EMS, fire, police, or municipal office) is designated to oversee the HeartSafe effort, involving community organizations (e.g., businesses, schools, churches) in organizing emergency response plans coordinated with local EMS. A lead municipal office includes: city/town mayor, administrator, or manager

**Please describe:**

**Question 2: + 10 HEARTBEATS**

**Conduct community CPR/AED training sessions.**

Communities will receive 10 **HEARTBEATS** per 10 citizens trained in CPR or CPR/AED. Copies of rosters, dates, and locations of programs must be provided. A signed letter from a certified instructor attesting to the number of successfully trained and certified with dates, locations, and specific certifications will be accepted in lieu of roster copies.

Use the following table to calculate **HEARTBEATS** earned as a result of CPR/AED training programs:

<b>Community Population</b>	<b>Citizens trained in CPR, CPR/AED programs</b>	<b>Citizens trained in CPR, CPR/AED programs</b>	<b>Total number of HEARTBEATS attained</b>
	Minimum	Actual Trained	
<b>Up to 5,000</b>	<b>10 citizens</b>		
<b>5,001 – 15,000</b>	<b>30 citizens</b>		
<b>15,001 – 30,000</b>	<b>50 citizens</b>		
<b>30,001 – 50,000</b>	<b>60 citizens</b>		
<b>50,001 – 100,000</b>	<b>75 citizens</b>		
<b>100,001 - more</b>	<b>90 citizens</b>		

**+\_\_\_\_\_HEARTBEATS**

**Question 3: + 60 HEARTBEATS**

**Local Law Enforcement Agency has trained personnel, is equipped with AEDs, and is dispatched to appropriate medical emergencies.**

**Please describe:**

**Question 4: + 50 HEARTBEATS**

**Schools and municipal buildings have effective emergency response plans that may include CPR and AED.** Please include a representative copy.

**Please describe:**

**Question 5: + 20 HEARTBEATS for each location**

**Permanent placement of AEDs with AED-trained personnel in public or private areas where many people congregate or may be at higher risk for cardiac arrest such as shopping malls, supermarkets, theaters, health clubs, schools, libraries, town pools or beaches, town halls, convention sites, hotels, athletic arenas, long-term care facilities, train and bus stations, and senior centers.**

Calculating AED placement **HEARTBEATS**

- Identify number of AED placements in the city or town
- Multiply actual number of placed AEDs times twenty.  
Example: 10 actual AED placements x 20 = 200 **HEARTBEATS!**
- Please enclose a list of devices and a copy of the AED registration form.

**Please describe:**

**Question 6: + 50 HEARTBEATS**

**Advanced Life Support is dispatched to appropriate emergencies and the providers are defibrillation capable, have 12-lead ECG, and maintain certification in American Heart Association Advanced Cardiac Life Support.**

**Please describe:**

**Question 7: + 50 HEARTBEATS**

**Have an ongoing process to evaluate and improve the “Chain of Survival” and overall cardiovascular health in the community.**

**Please answer the following questions:**

- How will your community increase access to emergency care?
- How will your community increase early CPR?
- How will your community increase early defibrillation?
- How will your community increase early advanced care?

# Rhode Island HeartSafe Community Program Application

1. Review Information and Criteria Packet
  2. Complete both the Information, Criteria Packet, and Application Form
  3. Include responses and attachments
  4. Mail or email application to:  
Dona Goldman, Chronic Care and Disease Management Team Lead  
Rhode Island Department of Health  
[dona.goldman@health.ri.gov](mailto:dona.goldman@health.ri.gov)  
3 Capitol Hill, Room 409  
Providence, RI 02908
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On behalf of the Rhode Island Department of Health and the American Heart Association we are pleased to invite you to participate in the HeartSafe Community Program.

The **HeartSafe Community Program** is a cooperative initiative by the Rhode Island Department of Health and the American Heart Association that will recognize local efforts to provide a strong chain of survival for Rhode Island residents and visitors. The application should be completed by the community's fire chief, police chief, head of EMS, or municipal leader such as a mayor or town manager. As a result of completing the enclosed worksheet, a community can quickly assess its readiness to provide emergency cardiac care and receive **HeartSafe community designation**. Please refer to the information and criteria packet in order to complete the application.

When the application is approved, your community will be contacted to schedule a formal HeartSafe Community designation ceremony. Please take a few moments to review the enclosed information and give serious consideration to making your community HeartSafe.

**Name and address of municipality seeking HeartSafe community designation:**

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**Community contact information:**

**Please check one:**

- Police Chief    
 Fire Chief/Head of EMS    
 Municipal Leader (such as Mayor or Town Manager)

**Include:**

Name	Title
Business Address	Business Phone
Email	Cell Phone

**Who provides your Emergency Medical Services?**

Organization/Agency	Contact person(s)
Address	
Phone	Email

Organization/Agency	Contact person(s)
Address	
Phone	Email

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_, I attest that all information contained in this application is correct.

Signature

Name (Print)

Title

Signature of Municipal Leader

Name (Print)

**All Communities must meet the following criteria regardless of population:**

*Please reference the criteria worksheet as the mandatory criteria numbers correspond with the descriptions in the information and criteria packet.*

**Required Criteria** **Heartbeats Earned**

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. A lead organization is designated to oversee the HeartSafe effort. Enter number of HEARTBEATS earned from criteria worksheet Question 1.  | <input type="text"/> |
| 2. CPR/AED training sessions are conducted in the community. (Attach a list of qualifying courses including course location, course title, and number of participants) Enter number of HEARTBEATS earned from criteria worksheet Question 2. | <input type="text"/> |
| 3. Local Law Enforcement Agency dispatches trained personnel equipped with AEDs. Enter number of HEARTBEATS earned from criteria worksheet Question 3.   | <input type="text"/> |
| 4. Schools and municipal buildings have effective emergency response plans that may include CPR and AED. Enter number of HEARTBEATS earned from criteria worksheet Question 4.   | <input type="text"/> |
| 5. AEDs are placed in the community with appropriate trained personnel. Enter number of HEARTBEATS earned from criteria worksheet Question 5.  | <input type="text"/> |
| 6. Advanced Life Support is dispatched to appropriate emergencies and the providers are defibrillation capable, have 12-lead ECG, and maintain certification. Enter number of HEARTBEATS earned from criteria worksheet Question 6.          | <input type="text"/> |
| 7. Have an ongoing process to evaluate and improve the "Chain-of-Survival" and overall cardiovascular health in the community. Enter number of HEARTBEATS earned from criteria worksheet Question 7.   | <input type="text"/> |

**Total Heartbeats Earned**

**Community Population**

# **Chain-of-Survival Evaluation Plan**

Please provide a description of your community's plan for evaluating and improving your "Chain-of-Survival." Refer to the evaluation process in the HeartSafe Community Information and Criteria Packet, page 4.

**How will your community increase access to emergency care?**

**How will your community increase early CPR?**

**How will your community increase early defibrillation?**

**How will your community increase early advanced care?**

**Please submit the completed application to:**

Michelle Barron-Magee  
Chronic Disease Control Program  
Rhode Island Department of Health  
3 Capitol Hill, Room 302  
Providence, RI 02908  
[Michelle.BarronMagee@health.ri.gov](mailto:Michelle.BarronMagee@health.ri.gov)

Megan Tucker, American Heart Association /American Stroke Association  
Director of Government Relations  
1 State Street, Suite 200  
Providence, RI 02908  
401-228-2331  
[Megan.Tucker@heart.org](mailto:Megan.Tucker@heart.org)