

# CFD Paramedic Program

**WHY COLCHESTER NEEDS  
ADVANCED LIFE  
SUPPORT (ALS)**



# What We Currently Provide

**Town of Colchester is 49 square miles**

## **Basic Life Support Services (BLS)**

- Emergency Medical Responder
- Emergency Medical Technician

Utilize paramedic Advanced Life Support (ALS) services, through DPH State approved agreements with regional public service agencies.

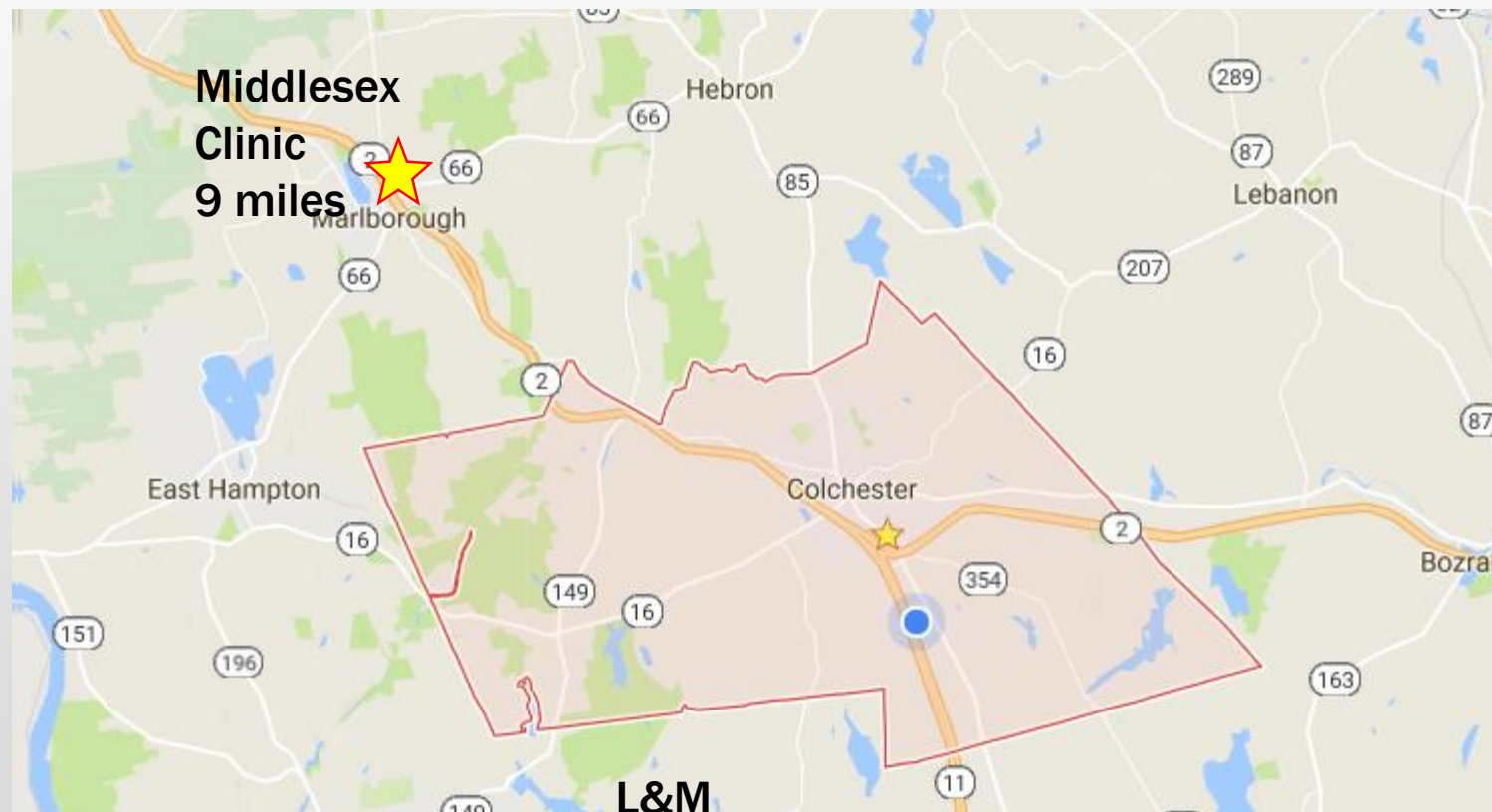
*when available.*

# Current Most Utilized ALS Provider

**MIDDLESEX PARAMEDIC #3 OUT OF MARLBOROUGH CLINIC  
IS 9 MILES AWAY, COVERING MULTIPLE TOWNS, TOTALING 165  
SQUARE MILES, SERVING APPROXIMATELY 44,400 PEOPLE.**

# Regional ALS Providers

★ Windham Hospital  
16 miles



★ Middlesex  
Health  
Care  
21 miles

Middlesex  
Clinic  
9 miles

L&M  
Paramedics  
21 miles ★

American  
Ambulance  
14 miles ★

Mohegan Tribal  
Paramedics ★  
14 miles

# Why is a paramedic needed in Colchester?

Colchester is a Heart Safe Community.

American Heart Association chain of life includes early 911, CPR, early defibrillation (community or BLS), BLS and ALS.

For every minute that a cardiac arrest victim is not revived, the chances to successfully revive the person decrease 10%. (AHA/ACLS).

Based on documented response times, with a Colchester based ALS response, the patient's revival chances could increase significantly.

**In 2017, 311 patients transported by Colchester Fire Department, required paramedic ALS interventions.**

**ALS PATIENT NUMBERS WOULD BE HIGHER AS THERE WERE 166 TIMES THERE WERE NO PARAMEDICS^ THAT REACHED THE PATIENT'S SIDE.**

**BASED ON CURRENT STATEWIDE DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS\*, DEMAND FOR ALS SERVICE IS RISING. (\*COLCHESTER PLAN OF CONSERVATION)**

# Responding to On Scene Arrival Times

Unit	Location	Average Response Time
<b>CFD*</b>	<b>Colchester*</b>	<b>5:59*</b>
Middlesex	Marlborough	11:00
American	Norwich	11:45

\*If the C.F.D. provides ALS – Our Paramedic on-scene time will be equal to 5:59 minutes\*  
Response time based on NFIRS data.

# Why is Time so Important ?

- **Cardiac Arrest** (previous example)
- **STEMI**
- **Stroke**
- **Pediatric Emergencies**
- **Elderly Health Issues**
- **Motor Vehicle Accident**
  - “Golden Hour”
- **2 Long Term Care Facilities**
- **CHA – Dublin/Ponemah**
- **Colchester Commons**
- **Amston Village**
- **Ga Na Den I, II, III**
- **Northwoods**
- **Multiple Special Needs Homes**
- **Entire Educational System**
- **Demographics**



# Providing ALS is a Win

- 1. Earlier interventions = more lives saved.**
- 2. Increased ALS responses.**
- 3. Advanced patient care (Bringing the ER to the patient).**
- 4. Can reduce patient hospitalization time.**

# Paramedic Program Start Up Cost

## **Initial One Time \$100,000 Expense Includes:**

- **General ALS Supplies**  
    **2 Gear Bags, Tools, Monitor(s) x2**

## **Initial Medications Inventory**

- **Narcotics and Chain of Custody Implementation**

*Going forward replenishing supplies is included in ongoing expense estimates.*

## **FULL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - PARAMEDIC RESPONSE VEHICLE:**

**\$45,000 new Capital outlay: 5 year life span.  
explore options used or leased \$9,000/yr.**

*Colchester Fire Department will investigate and pursue all possible funding grants, such as \*SAFER and AFG.*

## FY Impact to FD Operational Budget

- **1<sup>st</sup> year Initial Plan**                      \$350,000
  - 2 hirees: 1 Paramedic Supervisor/  
Firefighter + 1 Paramedic/Firefighter +  
(1P/FF in-house)
  - \*Supervisor covers weekly shifts

**2<sup>nd</sup> year Full Plan**                              \$450,000

**3 total hirees: 1 Paramedic Supervisor/FF +  
2 Paramedic/Firefighters + (1 P/FF in-  
house)**

**Currently 4 members of the CFD are CT  
licensed paramedics. They will have option  
to become part of paramedic staff.**



# Tasked Services of C.F.D.

**Emergency Medical Service Care: 1st Responder/BLS transport, Evaluation, Assist Invalid**

**Fire Suppression: Buildings, Vehicles, Brush, Chimney, Cooking Fires, Odor of Electrical Burning  
Rescue- MVA, Search, Lock-out, Water & Ice**

**Hazardous Materials Response: protecting and evacuating people, stabilizing environment and material, propane gas leaks**

**Service Calls: flooded basements, power line/trees down, road closures, etc. (Don't know who to call- Call FD)**

**Public Service: Car Seat Installation, Smoke/CO detectors, Fire Prevention, Educational Emergency Drills etc.**

**Stand-byes : BAHS Varsity Football, Community Events\***

<b>Budget Year</b>	<b>Projected FY Budget Revenue</b>	<b>Actual FY Revenue</b>	<b>Amount Above Projected Revenue</b>
<b>2017/18</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$582,728.43*</b>	<b>\$82,728.43</b>
<b>2016/17</b>	<b>\$490,000</b>	<b>\$552,328.14*</b>	<b>\$62,328.14</b>
<b>2015/16</b>	<b>\$475,000</b>	<b>\$537,524.81*</b>	<b>\$62,524.81</b>
<b>2014/15</b>	<b>\$475,000</b>	<b>\$532,669.30*</b>	<b>\$57,669.30</b>
<b>2013/14</b>	<b>\$475,000</b>	<b>\$503,355.00*</b>	<b>\$28,355.00</b>
		<b>Total exceeded</b>	<b>\$293,605.68</b>
	10 year actual revenue generation	<b>5,144,533.98</b>	
	10 year actual Revenue average	<b>514,453.40</b>	

2012/13 Actual - \$490,727.87\* 2011/12 Actual - \$493,173.95\* 2010/11 Actual - \$472,637.22\*  
2009/10 Actual - \$511,276.16\* 2008/09 Actual - \$465,113.10\*

\* Colchester Connecticut Adopted Budgets - Revenue Summary/Charges for Service/Ambulance Fees

Budget Year	Adopted C.F.D. Budget/population	Cost per person (pp) without generated revenue	Cost per person (pp) with C.F.D. generated revenue via Ambulance Fees
2017/18	\$1,297,266/#16,130	\$80.43 pp	*\$714,537.57 rev 44.30 pp
2016/17	\$1,235,606/#16,192	\$76.55 pp	*\$683,277.86 rev 42.20 pp
2015/16	\$1,285,045/#16,210	\$79.61 pp	*\$747,520.19 rev 46.11 pp
2014/15	\$1,235,086/#16,034	\$76.51 pp	*\$702,416.70 rev 43.81 pp
2013/14	\$1,222,600/#16,034	\$75.74 pp	*\$719,245 rev 44.86 pp
	# Population as noted by Chatham Health District, recognized in town budget.		* Adopted budget subtracting revenue generated from C.F.D.

# Had Colchester Fire Department been providing ALS services...

Year	Transports/ ALS Transports*	BLS/ALS Fee Difference^	Revenue Potential (Billable)
2017	1167/311 <b>2017* 166 no ALS</b>	\$425.00 <b>166 X .75 =125</b>	\$132,175.00 <b>\$53,125.00 = \$185,300</b>
2016	1094/312	\$379.00	\$118,248.00
2015	1201/344	\$369.00	\$126,936.00

Budget Year	Adopted C.F.D. Budget	C.F.D. generated revenue plus 58% of revenue potential	C.F.D. % return to Town of Colchester
2017/18	\$1,297,266	\$582,728.43 + \$107,474 = \$690,202.43	44.92 % 53.32 %
2016/17	\$1,235,606	\$552,328.14 + \$68,584 = \$620,912.14	44.70% 50.25%
2015/16	\$1,285,045	\$537,524.81 + \$73,622.88 = \$611,147.69	41.83% 47.56%

# Advantages of Colchester Providing Paramedic Services

For Patients *(Colchester residents):*

- Presently a patient can receive an ambulance bill and paramedic (ALS) bill.
  - ❖ A CFD bill is \$743, the ALS intercept bill is \$835 = \$ 1578.00
- Currently there are insurance companies that hesitate paying the intercept fee.
- Patients will receive one bill for transportation and ALS services.



# Advantages of Colchester Providing Paramedic Services (cont.)

For Patients *(Colchester residents):*

- Patients could experience a decrease in out of pocket expenses (one claim vs two)
- A decrease in the total cost of the service example
  - ❖ Two bill total is \$1578.00 One bill average ALS total is \$ 1046.00
  - ❖ A potential decrease of \$532.00 in fiscal responsibility
- Personalized interactions are more comforting between residents and C.F.D. staff

*“Colchester community members helping community members in need”.*

# Summary Slide

- **Data supports earlier intervention of Advanced Life Support (ALS) based on response times in Colchester.**
- **A decrease in the number of patients not having ALS response to their side.**
- **Earlier ALS to patient produces high probability of successful positive patient outcomes.**
- **A decrease of patient billing issues is projected, decreasing the total cost and out of pocket expenses.**
- **With cities and towns in Connecticut being limited on methods of revenue generation, The Town of Colchester will increase the revenue generation with the addition of this new service, and reduce the per person operational cost of the Colchester Fire Department for taxpayers.**