

NEWS

“Improving and Protecting the Health, Well-Being and Self-Reliance of All Montanans.”



Department of Public Health and Human Services

www.dphhs.mt.gov

January 2016

Contact: Jon Ebelt, Public Information Officer, DPHHS, (406) 444-0936
Chuck Council, Communications Specialist, DPHHS, (406) 444-4391

DPHHS receives \$4.6 million grant to start Montana Mobile Simulation program

High-tech training trucks to bolster training opportunities for EMS, hospital staff in rural Montana

Governor Steve Bullock announced today the State of Montana has received a \$4.6 million grant from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust to develop a Mobile Simulation program designed to increase life-saving training opportunities for emergency medical responders and hospitals through the use of mobile high-tech simulation trucks.

“This is a terrific opportunity to improve the health and lives of Montana citizens,” Bullock said. “With access to these incredible mobile trucks, the critical training that our first responders need will be made available in their communities all over Montana. The Helmsley Trust has made yet another tremendous investment to our state, and it’s very much appreciated.”

The Simulation in Motion Montana grant includes the purchase of three mobile simulation training trucks and high definition simulation manikins that will be available to emergency medical services, hospitals and universities for training on advanced trauma and cardiac life support. The grant pays for initial purchase of trucks, valued at \$500,000 each, the \$200,000 suite of manikins, and program operations for three years.

The primary goal of Simulation in Motion Montana will be to provide education and training to rural EMS services and hospitals. However, other stakeholders such as universities, colleges and others who have a need for simulation education could also participate.

According to DPHHS Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems Section supervisor Jim DeTienne, this grant will help remove barriers for first responders in rural Montana to access basic, advanced, neonatal, trauma and cardiac life support training.

“Our emergency medical responders need these critical courses, but face many obstacles including cost, travel distance from their facility to the course, and inability to provide time off for staff to attend the course,” he said. “Now, the training will come to them, which is very important in rural Montana.”

The trucks encompass areas in the back compartment simulating an emergency room and the back of an ambulance. The manikins are high fidelity computerized training tools that talk, breath, have heartbeats, and can react to medications and other actions of the learners. They can live or die and can be reviewed over and over again.

Each mobile unit will be outfitted with the needed supplies to recreate an environment as close to reality as possible for the learner. Specially educated trainers will bring real life, on-site emergency training/scenarios to rural health care providers to enhance training and recruit new personnel.

DeTienne said the trucks have been ordered and will be put into use in late fall 2016.

The Helmsley Trust has funded mobile simulation projects in both South and North Dakota and now Nebraska and Montana. DeTienne said Montana will contract with the North Dakota Simulation program to provide train the trainer training, mentoring, and leadership.

The Simulation in Motion Montana program complements two other existing Helmsley-funding programs.

In January 2015, Montana received a \$3.2 million gift from the Helmsley Trust to implement a three-year Cardiac Ready Communities initiative in Montana. The funding included the purchase of 222 automatic compression devices, called Physio-Control Lucas 2 Chest Compression System. Over the past year, DPHHS has been training Montana's first responders and hospitals on the devices.

In March 2014, the American Heart Association announced a gift of \$4.6 million from the Helmsley Trust to implement a three year Mission: Lifeline initiative in Montana to improve cardiac STEMI care.

EMS and Trauma Systems, DPHHS

The DPHHS EMS and Trauma Systems Section is the state's lead agency responsible for the development of a comprehensive emergency medical services program for Montanans. It is the vision of the Section that the development of comprehensive emergency medical, trauma and injury prevention programs is imperative to the well-being, health and safety of Montana citizens. As such, the section's overall mission is to reduce death and disability by providing leadership and coordination in the planning and development of a comprehensive, evidence-based emergency care system.

About The Helmsley Charitable Trust

The Helmsley Charitable Trust aspires to improve lives by supporting effective nonprofits in a variety of selected areas. Since 2008, when the Trust began its active grant making, it has committed more than \$1 billion to a wide range of charitable organizations. The Trust's Rural Healthcare Program funds innovative projects that use information technologies to connect rural patients to emergency medical care, bring the latest medical therapies to patients in remote areas, and provide state-of-the-art training for rural hospitals and EMS personnel. To date, this program

has awarded more than \$267 million to organizations and initiatives in the upper Midwest states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Minnesota, Iowa and Montana.