

\$9K grant aids effort to provide crisis kits

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From Staff Reports

The Public Safety Foundation of Greene County and the Greene County Sheriff's Office now have sufficient funds to complete their project to provide every classroom in the county school system with a Crisis Response Kit.

The allocation of the funding was part of the State's Homeland Security Program Grant provided in support of the county's Community Emergency Response Training program. Half of the 230 needed kits were furnished in November 2013 using funds raised by the Public Safety Foundation of Greene County

The kits provide materials for teachers or aides to immediately respond to an injury needing immediate attention. They contain advanced dressings, a cold pack, sterile water, shears, light sticks and other items that will allow a teacher to address a potentially life-threatening injury — even in the dark — until professional help arrives.

In addition to the schools being fully outfitted with Crisis Response Kits, kits will also be provided to key government activities in Greene County so that they too have the capability to treat someone during an immediate emergency.

Greene is reaping \$9,000 in grants from a proposal that encapsulates the goal of the grant program.

“With this grant, Virginia joins federal and local governments in working together proactively to ensure that our residents are better protected and able to recover more quickly from possible terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies,” Gov. Terry McAuliffe said in a news release.

“We have been very successful in obtaining state CERT funding to support the expanding emergency response capabilities in the county,” said Steve Keene, CERT program manager for the Sheriff's Office.

“Completion of the Crisis Response Kit effort is an example of the close beneficial relationship between the CERT program and the Public Safety Foundation,” said Public Safety Foundation of Greene County President Carl Schmitt.

The local grant is part of more than \$4.8 million in federal funds being awarded to government agencies throughout the commonwealth.

“These critical funds, provided by our partners at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, will be used immediately to help emergency planners and first-responder agencies throughout Virginia get tools, equipment and other resources they need to keep Virginia communities safe,” Gov. Terry McAuliffe said in a recent news release announcing the grants.

The grants, administered by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management with funds from the 2014 State Homeland Security Grant program, will be allotted to agencies that submitted project proposals in 10 categories of special emphasis and priority for Virginia, the release said.

Out of 187 project proposals that were valued at more than \$23 million in total, roughly a fifth were actually accepted through a vetting process by the Office of the Secretary of Public Health and Safety.

Each proposal was evaluated against five criteria by 50-some peer reviewers from multiple professional groups and state agencies, as well as local government officials with emergency expertise.

For more information about the Public Safety Foundation, visit its webpage at www.psfgc.org; call Schmitt at (434) 985-9815; or contact Executive Director Michael Martin at (434) 531-5466.

For more information about CERT, call Keene at (434) 566-8774 or visit the Greene County Sheriff’s webpage at www.greenecountysheriffva.com and click on the Programs link.