Eight Key Components for Early Defibrillation Programs
as recommended by
The National Center for Early Defibrillation

Broad-based community collaboration and “buy-in” that includes:
• A task force of key stakeholders
• A program that involves partnership among public and private agencies

A community needs assessment and response plan that includes:
• Evaluation of each link in the chain of survival (early access, early CPR, early defibrillation, early advanced care) and identified areas for improvement
• Laws, regulations and liability/risk management issues affecting the program reviewed and addressed
• A comprehensive response plan including policies, procedures and protocols
• Strategic placement of devices and training of targeted responders
• Assurance of simultaneous and immediate notification of 911 and on-site response team
• Provisions for periodic response drills

Integration of the program within the EMS system:
• Local EMS actively supports the program
• Response plan addresses the effective transfer of care to EMS

Strong medical oversight by Medical Director:
• Reviews and approves protocols
• Oversees training
• Makes continuous quality improvement
• Reviews all responses to cardiac arrests and all AED uses
• Provides constructive feedback to responders

Strong Program Management:
• Has ongoing operations and program management
• Monitors execution of the response plan
• Monitors device placement and maintenance
• Ensures that response drills are conducted periodically
Initial and refresher AED training:
- Training is provided to designated, targeted responders and other interested parties
- Nationally recognized, competency-based, device-specific training programs
- CPR and AED skills acquisition / individual protocols emphasized
- Refresher training conducted regularly to address responder turnover
- Methods in place to track training data

Public awareness efforts and layperson participation:
- Multi-media public awareness initiatives planned to increase public awareness about sudden cardiac arrest and the chain of survival approach to care and the community program.
- Program materials (brochures, videos, information packets) created to promote the program and educate the public
- Layperson CPR-AED training is promoted throughout the community

Assessment of program for effectiveness and continuous quality improvement:
- Methods have been established to track and evaluate key cardiac arrest data such as:
  - Number of SCA cases
  - Number of SCA cases in which the AED was applied
  - Interval from 911 call to first shock
  - SCA and VF (ventricular fibrillation) survival rates (to hospital discharge)
- Reviews conducted after each episode to evaluate response system effectiveness and determine strategies for improvement