

# St. Petersburg Times

## Free defibrillators to be given to agencies Series: PINELLAS DIGEST; [STATE Edition]

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### **Abstract** (Document Summary)

The American Red Cross' Tampa Bay area chapter wants to give out 10 free heart defibrillators to non-profit and private organizations. The Red Cross will use a \$25,000 grant from the Rogers Heart Foundation in St. Petersburg to buy the equipment, said George Castrataro, health and safety director for the American Red Cross' Tampa Bay area chapter.

### **Full Text** (175 words)

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The American Red Cross' Tampa Bay area chapter wants to give out 10 free heart defibrillators to non-profit and private organizations. The Red Cross will use a \$25,000 grant from the Rogers Heart Foundation in St. Petersburg to buy the equipment, said George Castrataro, health and safety director for the American Red Cross' Tampa Bay area chapter. The automated external defibrillator, or AED, is a portable shocking device that is increasingly being stocked in malls, stadiums, golf courses and other public places. The devices, which are the size of lunch boxes, measure heart rhythm and determine whether shock is needed when someone is suspected of having a heart attack. Agencies that could benefit from having a defibrillator on hand may apply before the end of July, Castrataro said. A Red Cross panel will choose 10 recipients based on a number of factors, including whether the agency or group could afford such a device, which can cost about \$2,500. Agencies can also purchase defibrillators from the Red Cross. For more information, call the organization at 446-2358.

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