



Cohort 19



About Us

Alameda County EMS Corps is a nationally recognized program that prepares young adults for careers in health and public safety. During this five-month program, participants receive a paid stipend, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training, transformative mentoring, life coaching, physical training, and more.

Mission

To increase the number of underrepresented emergency medical technicians through leadership development, mentorship, and job training.

Core Values

Courage, Character, Commitment,

Our Impact



Outcomes

EMS Corps has served over 352 young adults. 85% of graduates that took the NREMT passed, and are EMT certified. This rate is higher than the current national average pass rate.



Program Components

- EMT Training
- Life Coaching
- Health and Wellness
- Mentorship
- Case Management
- Community Service



Commonly Pursued Careers

- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Technician
- Community Health Worker
 - Fire
 - Police
 - Medicine
 - Nursing

Our Life Coaches

BROTHA CHAZ WALKER



M. Chaz Walker is the life coach for the young men. In his classes the cadets learn to master their emotions and to tap into their personal power. The goal is to encourage the development of emotional intelligence. Walker is an expert in easing racial tension and reducing community violence. Walker designs programs to meet the unique needs of urban men and women seeking the tools to evolve socially. More than an instructor, Mr. Walker is a role model for many cadets. He has overcome many of the challenges young men in urban environments face. His down to earth approach encourages young men to examine their lives, and create plans to move with honor. The mantra of his class is “Develop Iwa Pele”, a Yoruba term that means, “Noble Character”.

SHANI L. BOYKIN

Shani L. Boykin is the mental health and life coach for the young women in EMS Corps. She believes vulnerability helps build relationships. This is accomplished by meeting with students weekly in a group and individually. The group component fosters the idea that students are not alone and there is strength in numbers. She leads with intention and consistency because it has proven to develop a strong sense of safety and trust. Time with students is geared towards providing insight, clarity, direction, and support throughout their time in EMS Corps. Shani focuses on mental health, wellness/self-care and professionalism to fill in the gaps between where they are now, and where they want to be. Each student is assisted with identifying desired areas of growth, setting goals and objectives, while holding them accountable in order to reach their goals. Shani encourages students and supports them on their educational path towards completion of the program and beyond.



Our Staff



DEYANTAE G. NEWSON

Deyantae G. Newson has overcome many challenges to be in the position he is in today. Mr. Newson, is the BootCamp instructor and Case Manager for The EMS Corps Program. He is also a Certified Personal Trainer, coach, and mentor. He has helped many individuals improve their lives through fitness.



ELSIE KUSEL

Elsie Kusel is an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator for the Alameda County EMS Agency. Among her duties, she serves as the EMS Corps EMT Training Program Director. She has a passion for EMS education, with experience teaching and training different aspects of emergency medical response to future and current EMS personnel. Elsie has been a practicing paramedic for over 30 years.



LUCRETIA BOBO

Lucretia was previously the Case Manager and Health Services Consultant for EMS Corps, and she now serves as the Administrative Assistant. Eleven years with the program, she assists with the day to day coordination and efficiency of the program. When the students return, now working in their desired career path, it brings her great joy to see the impact EMS Corps has had on their lives.



MARTHA LEMUS

Martha Lemus is the Admin to the Instructors and Case Manager for the women in the EMS Corps program. She assists instructors with administrative duties. Lemus believes that spirituality and self-care are main components to a successful life. This is reflected in the case management work with the young women through hikes, meditation, healing circles and other techniques.

Alumni Highlight



Charles Boyd

Cohort 12

"I'm now an owner of Cj's World LLC, which provides firearm, self-defense and CPR training. EMS Corps gave me a new perspective on life. When I was lost, EMS Corps helped me understand my true potential. I can achieve whatever goals I set for myself, because I am the author of my own life."

Antoine Davis

Cohort 9

"After receiving my Emergency Medical Technician License in 2015 from EMS Corps, I am now a Lieutenant with the San Francisco Fire Department, stationed in the Bayview District. I am the co-founder of the City EMT Program, Co-Director of the SF Fire Youth Academy, and President of the San Francisco Black Firefighters Association. I aspire to build genuine community relationships, by being a positive role model, and advocating for members within the San Francisco Fire Department."



Micaella Suarez

Cohort 19

"EMS Corps has positively impacted my life by providing opportunities and allowing me to expand my knowledge in the EMS field. I currently work as a traveling EMT, by providing aid to local operations that are around the state of California. I am defying the misrepresentation of woman minorities in EMS, and creating a path for the future of EMS. The program taught me that a positive mindset can set you a part from everybody else in the field. My goal is to represent the character that was passed down to me from my mentors."



Program Growth

The success of EMS Corps has brought awareness to how essential such a program is for underrepresented youth. Over the years, other programs have been created and modeled after EMS Corps.

Other Programs

EMS Corps

Albuquerque, NM

Current Cohort: 4

City EMT

San Francisco, CA

Current Cohort: 5

Freedom House 2.0

Pittsburgh, PA

Current Cohort: 8



CITY EMT

Pictured: Cohort 5

Going Forward

EMS Corps will continue to expand statewide. Governor Gavin Newsom has made an initiative to instate eight more EMS Corps in California within the next 3-5 years.



Freedom House 2.0

Pictured: Cohort 7



EMS Corps, Albuquerque

Pictured: Cohort 1



Michael Gibson

Executive Director

As the Executive Director of the EMS Corps, I could have never imagined the impact we would have on the lives of our students. We created a model program that changes lives and enables our students to achieve their career goals. Our graduates have become doctors, nurses, police officers, paramedics, firefighters, coast guards, military medics, researchers, health care technicians, and community health workers. We are currently in our 21st cohort, and I am proud to be in partnership and help establish additional programs modeled after EMS Corps. It is my belief that personal transformation leads to community transformation. Creating opportunities where people of color can enter into a workforce where we have been disproportionately excluded is one of my greatest accomplishments.

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