

TOP TEN AWARD WINNER

LA-DROP (Prehospital Blood Transfusion Pilot)

Fire with Health Services (EMS Agency and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center),
Compton Fire Department, and San Diego Blood Bank

LA-DROP is a groundbreaking partnership among the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, LA Health Services (EMS Agency and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center), Compton Fire Department, and the San Diego Blood Bank to bring life-saving blood transfusions directly to patients before they reach the hospital. LA-DROP is County of Los Angeles' first prehospital blood transfusion pilot program. Prior to April 2025, paramedics were not allowed to perform blood transfusions in California. Before the LA-DROP pilot launched, the only option available to paramedics was normal saline. By allowing paramedics to administer whole blood, the program delivers a life-saving intervention during the most critical period of hemorrhagic shock, when seconds count and delays in treatment can lead to death.

Since launching in April 2025, LA-DROP has transfused 60 patients, with approximately 75% surviving through hospital discharge. The program established a safe, sustainable system for blood storage, transportation, warming, administration, and documentation while meeting regulatory requirements and minimizing blood waste. Supported by a \$380,000 Productivity Investment Fund grant from the Quality and Productivity Commission, LA-DROP demonstrates how innovative collaboration can expand emergency medical capabilities, strengthen equitable access to advanced care, and potentially save lives.

