Is your ministry prepared to handle cardiac emergencies? You may consider purchasing an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), a device about the size of a laptop computer that analyzes the heart's rhythm for any abnormalities.

If necessary, it directs the rescuer to deliver an electrical shock to the victim. This shock, called defibrillation, may help the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm of its own. As you establish an AED program, consider the following questions:

1. Based on your facility's size, have you determined how many AED units you would need and where they should be located?

2. Have you considered who within your organization will be responsible for AED use?

3. Will AED training become part of your response team's onboarding process?

4. Have you determined whether or not you have enough people on your response team to cover most situations/locations within your church?

5. Have you determined how much money will be needed to purchase the equipment, train employees or volunteers, and provide program maintenance?

6. Have you researched current AED-use laws in your state?
   While there are AED Good Samaritan provisions in most states that provide certain legal protections to laypersons, it’s good to know the legal climate in your state regarding this equipment.

7. Have you consulted with your local American Red Cross chapter for input on purchasing an AED and training staff and volunteers how to use it?

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**Notes:**

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Completed by: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

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