



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lifesaving AEDs Available to Borrow from Downtown Buffalo Central Library. Part of the HeartSafe Community designation, AEDs available to patrons 17 and over

BUFFALO, N.Y., July 14, 2025 – This May, Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz was joined by the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library and other organizations to announce that Erie County was recognized as a national HEARTSafe Community: a designation that highlights a commitment to improving outcomes from sudden cardiac arrest through public education, emergency preparedness, and coordinated response.

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is now pleased to announce that AED (automated external defibrillator) devices are available for check-out at the downtown Central Library, located at 1 Lafayette Square. This lightweight portable device can be used to help save a life during a sudden cardiac arrest. Each kit includes instructions for use and can be borrowed by adult patrons (ages 17+) with a library card for seven days with one renewal, if available. Details are here: <https://bl.buffalolib.org/AEDKit>.

“Public libraries are the ultimate, trusted public resource, and adding these AEDs to the Central Library’s collection supports our countywide goals for public health, public safety and equitable access to this lifesaving equipment,” said **Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz**.

“Our year-long process to become a HEARTSafe community was just the beginning. Now, library patrons can literally check out an AED for sports or corporate events, community festivals, family get-togethers, and other occasions. We are committed to providing residents with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to give a colleague, a friend, a loved one, or a total stranger the best possible chance of surviving a sudden cardiac event,” stated **Poloncarz**.

“Expanding on our commitment to the community, all 37 Buffalo & Erie County Public Library locations also offer hands-only, self-paced, CPR training kits for patron borrowing as well,” said **Interim Library Director Dorinda Darden**.

“Additionally, we have a full slate of free public wellness programs such as health fairs, yoga, and fitness training.” **Darden** concluded. Details can be found here: <https://bl.buffalolib.org/Wellness> and here: <https://bl.buffalolib.org/CPRKit>.

The Library has partnered with the Erie County Department of Health, American Red Cross, American Heart Association, The Buffalo Bills, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western New York, and Lawley Insurance to ensure that materials on heart health and wellness are available through your Libraries.

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