

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Agency: Federal Emergency Management Agency

FY 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program – COVID-19 Supplemental (AFG-S)

Grant Overview

The objectives of the AFG-S program are to provide critically needed resources that equip personnel to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and support community resilience. All activities under this solicitation are limited to the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This includes reimbursement for expenditures made since Jan. 1, 2020. Eligible applicants are fire departments, non-affiliated emergency medical services (EMS) organizations, and state fire training academies (SFTAs).

Program History

This supplemental funding opportunity was created through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$100 million

Award Range: Up to \$1 million

Match: Varies by population

Solicitation date: April 23, 2020

Proposal due: May 15, 2020

- NFIRS reporting is not a requirement to apply for the AFG-S Program
- FEMA has developed a [cost share calculator tool](#)

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/187460>



Evaluation Criteria

When awarding grants, FEMA is required to consider:

- The findings and recommendations of the Technical Evaluation Panel;
- The extent of an applicant's need for and AFG-S grant and the need to protect America as a whole; and
- The number of calls requesting or requiring a firefighting or emergency medical response received by an applicant.

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Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. Applicants may request funding under the following eligible activities:

Operations and Safety – Personal Protective Equipment: the funding agency will support the following PPE priorities:

- Eye Protection - Appropriately fitted, indirectly vented goggles or single use disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face.
- Isolation Gowns – Nonsterile, single use fluid-resistant and impermeable disposable patient isolation gown.
- Protective Coveralls - 360-degree protection of whole body, including the back, lower legs and feet.
- Gloves – single use, disposable patient examination gloves.
- Footwear Covers – Single use, disposable medical footwear covers.
- Respirators - Any NIOSH-approved particulate respirator (i.e., N-95 or higher-level respirator). Includes the purchase of filters appropriate for use.
- Surgical Type Face Masks - loose-fitting, single use disposable physical barrier between the mouth and nose of the wearer to allow fire and EMS personnel to meet CDC recommendations and/or state mandates for face covering when in a public setting other than direct patient contact.
- Other supplies are also eligible, however will be considered a lower priority than items listed above. Examples include:
 - Decontamination supplies and services for PPE, station-quarters, and vehicles.
 - Replacement High-Efficiency Particulate Air filters and other types of disposable filtration supplies used on EMS respiratory and/or ventilator equipment.
 - Personally-issued antiseptic hand washes, antiseptic hand rubs such

Regional Projects: A Regional application is an opportunity for a Fire Department or a nonaffiliated EMS (NAEMS) organization to act as a host and apply for funding on behalf of itself and any number of other participating AFG eligible organizations (a NAEMS organization who is a host regional applicant, can only host other NAEMS organizations). Regional activities should achieve cost effectiveness, support regional efficiency and resilience, and benefit more than one local jurisdiction (county, parish, town, township, city, or village) directly from the activities implemented with the grant funds.

Micro Grants: Applicants may request microgrants for eligible project activities.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are:

- Fire departments: agencies or organizations having a formally recognized arrangement with a state, territory, local, or tribal authority to provide fire suppression to a population within a geographically fixed primary first due response area
- Non-affiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations: public or private non-profit EMS entities providing medical transport that are not affiliated with a hospital and that do not serve a geographic area in which emergency medical services are adequately provided by a fire department
- State fire training academies (SFTAs): SFTAs designated either by legislation or by a governor's declaration as the sole state fire service training agency within a state, territory, or the District of Columbia

Fire departments need not be currently participating in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS); however, fire departments that receive funding must agree to provide information to the NFIRS for the period covered by the assistance. There is no NFIRS reporting requirement for non-affiliated EMS organizations or SFTAs.

Applicants do not need to be in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS); however, applicants that receive funding must achieve a level of NIMS compliance required by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) over the applicant's emergency service operations prior to the end of the project period.

A fire department or a non-affiliated EMS organization may act as a host and submit a regional application on behalf of itself and any number of other participating, eligible organizations. Neither the regional host nor any participating partner is prevented from also submitting an application on behalf of its own organization; however, it cannot be for the same item.

Funding

In FY 2020, \$100 million is available to support 1,000 awards of up to \$1 million through this program. FEMA may waive this aggregate cap of \$1 million in individual cases where FEMA determines that a recipient has an extraordinary need for a grant that exceeds the aggregate cap. The period of performance should begin May 30, 2020 and be for a 12-month period.

The total funding available for will be allocated according to applicant type, as follows:

- Non-affiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations: no more than 2 percent of total funding available
- EMS providers: no less than 3.5 percent of total funding available
- SFTAs: no more than 3 percent of total funding available, and no more than \$500,000 per applicant

The selection of the voluntary Micro Grant option (cumulative federal funding of \$3,000) for eligible activities does not impact an applicant's request or federal participation under Regional projects. Applicants who select Micro Grants as a funding opportunity choice may still apply for a Regional project. Further, at least \$150,000 of the available funds will be allocated toward this applicant type.

Pre-award expenditures for eligible Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies are eligible under this program. The expenditures must have been made after Jan. 1, 2020. Fees for grant writers are also included as a pre-award expenditure.

In general, eligible applicants shall agree to make available non-federal funds to carry out an AFG-S award in an amount equal to and not less than 15 percent of the grant awarded. Exceptions to this general requirement apply to entities serving smaller communities as follows:

- When serving a jurisdiction of 20,000 residents or fewer, the applicant shall agree to make available non-federal funds in an amount equal to not less than 5 percent of the grant awarded.
- When serving a jurisdiction of more than 20,000 residents, but not more than 1 million residents, the applicant shall agree to make available non-federal funds in an amount equal to not less than 10 percent of the grant awarded.

The cost share for SFTAs will apply the requirements above based on the total population of the state.

FEMA has developed a cost share calculator tool in order to assist applicants with determining their cost share. The cost share tool is available at: <https://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/assets/documents/153366>.

Contact Information

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