

2017

TFG General Grant Guide Firefighters



This guide identifies potential federal funding opportunities to support firefighters. The grants chosen for inclusion in this guide are opportunities that are typically reoccurring and have the most relevant applicability to the needs of Fire Departments. Past funding opportunities that seemed relevant but presented no indication of being funded in the future were not included.

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*For additional information about these opportunities, please contact
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FEDERAL FUNDING

FEDERAL EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY (FEPP)

Department: Department of Agriculture

Agency: U.S. Forest Service
Fire and Aviation Management

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The purpose of this program is to lend funding agency-owned property to state foresters for the purpose of wildland and rural firefighting. This program is a partnership between the federal funding agency and state foresters. A current FEPP cooperative agreement must be in effect between the state district or region and the cooperating fire department/district. The state forestry agency can then supply loaned FEPP equipment to local departments to improve local fire programs. Title of loaned FEPP property stays with the federal government, and the property may be sub-loaned or transferred by state agencies. Loaned property must be verified and a 100 percent physical inventory must be completed every two years. Property must be either returned to the government following use or disposed of with funding agency approval. Eligible items must be designed or modified for direct use in fire suppression activities, including:

- Trucks
- Tactical communications systems
- Tanks
- Trailers
- Fire tools
- Fire protective clothing
- Hoses
- Tires
- Winches
- Vehicle parts
- Sirens
- Light bars
- Nozzles
- Breathing apparatus
- Pumps
- Forcible entry tools
- Air compressors
- Extraction equipment
- Generators

Except in emergencies when life or property is threatened, equipment issued through this program must be used for direct fire protection at least 90 percent of the time. Non-fire use must not exceed 10 percent. No personal use of FEPP property is permitted. FEPP property may not be sold, loaned, disposed of, or transferred without the funding agency's permission.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are state agencies. The local state district or region may administer FEPP property for local fire departments/districts, including volunteer or paid fire departments.

FUNDING

Rather than providing monetary awards, this program provides loans of funding agency property for the purpose of wildland and rural firefighting. Acquisition plans should be for a specific 12- to 15-month period.

MATCH REQUIREMENTS

There are no stated matching requirements for this program.

MOST RECENT SOLICITATION

Rolling

AGENCY CONTACT

Questions should be directed to the appropriate state coordinator or the appropriate regional federal funding agency contact listed [here](#).

<https://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/fepp/>

FIREFIGHTER PROPERTY (FFP) PROGRAM

Department: Department of Agriculture

Agency: U.S. Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The purpose of this program is to provide local agencies with an opportunity to obtain excess U.S. Department of Defense FFP that can be put into service for firefighting or emergency services purposes. To be eligible to pass ownership of FFP to local agencies, state agencies responsible for fire suppression and pre-suppression must have a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. State agencies determine whether property is suitable to be used for emergency service activities within their states, and assign FFP to fire departments or fire districts with which they have established a cooperative agreement at the local level. Local agencies that obtain FFP through this program must maintain property records for a minimum of five years after acquisition. Only items that are designed or can be modified for direct use in fire pre-suppression or suppression activities or for emergency services associated with fire service responsibilities will be supported. This may include personal protective equipment, equipment for communication and monitoring, physical fitness equipment, fit-for-duty health-monitoring devices, and fabrication materials and equipment. Fire control equipment, such as items used to start fires from aircraft and various forms of artillery, as well as aircraft and water craft, may also be available through this program if appropriate justification is provided.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are state and rural agencies, which may acquire and pass ownership of FFP to eligible recipients, including local governments, private organizations, and recognized Indian tribes.

FUNDING

Rather than providing monetary awards, this program allows applicants to receive excess FFP from the federal government's Department of Defense.

MATCH REQUIREMENTS

There are no stated matching requirements for this program.

MOST RECENT SOLICITATION

Rolling

AGENCY CONTACT

Questions should be directed to the appropriate state coordinator or the appropriate regional federal funding agency contact listed [here](#).

<https://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/fepp/>

VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE (VFA) PROGRAM

Department: Department of Agriculture

Agency: U.S. Forest Service
Fire and Aviation Management

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The purpose of this program is to assist rural communities in organizing, training, and equipping their paid and volunteer fire departments in order to prevent and suppress fires. Program funding will be allocated to state forestry agencies, which in turn will pass the funding to needful fire departments within their states. Program goals include:

- Organizing, training, and equipping fire departments in unprotected rural areas and rural communities
- Assisting qualified fire departments in saving lives and protecting property in unprotected or inadequately protected rural areas
- Preventing or reducing loss of life, protecting financial investments, and enhancing environmental quality to revitalize rural America

Examples of funded projects include:

- Development of multicomunity/fire department projects such as mutual-aid communications networks
- Development of static water supplies such as dry hydrants and cisterns
- Conversion of Federal Excess Personal Property program vehicles to water tenders, engines, brush trucks, and equipment trucks
- Upgrading a community water supply system by installing dry fire hydrants
- Organizing a rural fire department
- Developing a training program for multifire department responses
- Acquiring videos and supplemental training guides for instructing rural firefighters

Funds may be used to buy fire equipment, pay for training or training materials, and/or cover the cost of department incorporation. Priority will be given to fire departments having a membership comprised of at least 80 percent volunteer firefighters. Priority will also be given to communities having an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 9 or 10, as these communities usually have the poorest fire protection.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are fire training academies and rural fire agencies or volunteer fire departments that serve a community of 10,000 or fewer people. Fire agencies and departments may be operated by municipalities, federally recognized Indian tribes, or nonprofit organizations.

Area fire departments, such as fire districts and townships, that serve more than 10,000 people may apply as long as the service area includes a rural area or community with a population of 10,000 or fewer.

A single county or town with a population of over 10,000 that is served by two or more fire districts operating entirely within the bounds of the county or town may qualify as long as the service area of a given fire department includes a rural area or a rural community or the population of the fire department's jurisdiction is 10,000 or fewer.

Priority will be given to fire departments having a membership comprised of at least 80 percent volunteer firefighters. Priority will also be given to communities having an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 9 or 10, as these communities usually have the poorest fire protection.

A single community fire department serving a population greater than 10,000 and not providing protection to a rural area or to a rural community is not eligible to apply.

FUNDING

An unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards through this program. Most awards will not exceed \$5,000. Actual amounts depend on the federal funding allocated to each particular state. Awards are provided for a period of one year.

MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must provide at least 50 percent of the total project cost via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions. Acceptable in-kind matching contributions include volunteer labor such as installation of dry fire hydrants, or donation of services such as the use of volunteer instructors to present a training course.

MOST RECENT SOLICITATION

Rolling

AGENCY CONTACT

Questions should be directed to the appropriate state program manager using the information provided [here](#).

<https://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/vfa/>

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT PROGRAM (1122 PROGRAM)

Department: Department of Defense

Agency: Defense Logistics Agency (DLS)

General Services Administration (GSA)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The purpose of this program is to enable states and units of local government to access the federal government's sources of supply to purchase equipment to aid in counter-drug, homeland security, or emergency response activities. Equipment and materials obtained through this program will be discounted commensurate with large-volume purchases.

Applicants must identify equipment needed for their supported activities. The applicant's state Single Point of Contact (SPOC) will then determine whether the requested items are available through the Department of Defense supply system.

A wide range of supplies are available through this program through the following item categories:

- Weapons and ammunition
- Chemical biological defenses
- Aviation and support items
- Troop support
- Non-tactical vehicles
- Law enforcement and security equipment
- Firefighting and rescue equipment

Refer to the [Supplies Catalog](#) file for detailed lists of items available through this program.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include: states, including U.S. territories and possessions; units of local government, including cities, counties, townships, towns, boroughs, parishes, villages, and other general purpose political subdivisions of a state; and Indian tribes that perform law enforcement or emergency response functions.

Eligibility is limited to applicants in areas that have a designated and certified 1122 Program state Single Point of Contact (SPOC). The current participating territory is Puerto Rico, and current participating states are Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming. States without a designated and certified SPOC are ineligible to participate.

FUNDING

Rather than providing monetary awards, this program provides allowance for the purchase of supplies and equipment related to drug enforcement, homeland security, and emergency response through federal procurement channels.

MATCH REQUIREMENTS

There are no stated matching requirements for this program; however, the applicant must secure funding to purchase the requested items via check or other form of payment.

MOST RECENT SOLICITATION

Rolling

AGENCY CONTACT

Questions should be directed to the program staff, or to the appropriate state Single Point of Contact (SPOC) listed [here](#).

<https://www.gsa.gov/acquisition/purchasing-programs/gsa-schedules/state-and-local-government-customers/1122-program>

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH TRAINING PROJECT GRANTS

Department: Department of Health and Human Services

Agency: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The purpose of this program is to offer training project grants (TPGs) that are focused on occupational safety and health (OSH) training. This program is intended to address the burden of OSH in the United States by providing state-of-the-art training for the next generation of leaders in OSH practice and research. The majority of awards through this program are provided to academic institutions that provide high-quality training in the core occupational safety and health disciplines of industrial hygiene (IH), occupational health nursing (OHN), occupational medicine residency (OMR), occupational safety (OS), and closely related allied disciplines. Funding is additionally offered to non-academic programs to meet specific training needs of targeted populations, including firefighters, commercial fisherman, and occupational health and safety interns. The essential characteristics of eligible projects are:

- Meet specific regional or national workforce needs and demands
- Demonstrate collaborative efforts by working with a diverse and broad range of organizations to enhance OSH training in their region
- Have an advisory committee of three or more individuals who can provide guidance to the program's leadership
- Support recruitment activities to attract trainees from under-represented and underserved groups to training programs, and for collaboration with academic institutions serving minority and other under-represented populations, such as tribal colleges and universities, historically Black colleges and universities, and Hispanic-serving institutions
- Has evaluation plan prepared for the project

For academic training programs, applicants are encouraged to take advantage of the unique strengths and capabilities of their faculty and institutions, and to develop new and innovative academic programs in core and allied disciplines that are relevant to worker health and safety. Academic programs should provide trainees with core competencies to be successful in their field of study, including critical thinking, effective leadership, and communication skills.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include: institutions of higher education; Hispanic-, Alaska Native-, and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions; Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs); Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions (AANAPISs); non-profit organizations; for-profit organizations; state, county, city, township, and special district governments; tribal governments and organizations; independent school districts; public housing/Indian housing authorities; regional organizations; U.S. territories/possessions; eligible federal agencies; and faith-based or community-based organizations.

FUNDING

Approximately \$3 million is available to support 20 to 30 awards through this program. One to ten awards will be made for renewal applications. Budget requests are limited as follows:

- Undergraduate programs may request a total budget of up to \$50,000 per year.
- Graduate programs may request a total budget of up to \$150,000 per year.
- Occupational medicine residency programs may request a total budget of up to \$250,000 per year.

Budget requests for non-academic programs may vary, but the budget must be clearly justified. The project period for new applications may be up to three years.

MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Matching contributions are not required for this program.

MOST RECENT SOLICITATION

09/25/2015 – 10/24/2019

AGENCY CONTACT

Technical Information Management Section Program Staff
(770) 488-2700

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=279237>

ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANTS

Department: Department of Homeland Security

Agency: Federal Emergency Management Agency

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The purpose of the General Program component is to enhance the safety of the public and of firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. Awards will be used for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. Projects are expected to implement the finding and recommendations of the funding agency's Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP), reduce risks associated with fire-related and other hazards, and address a clear need. Priority will be given to applicants applying for a micro-grant. Awards through this component will be provided for activities, as follows:

- Operations and safety:
 - Training
 - Equipment for effective response, firefighting, rescue, and emergency medical operations that enhance public safety
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Wellness and fitness activities to strengthen emergency responders so their mental, physical, and emotional capabilities are resilient enough to withstand the demands of all hazard operations
 - Modifications to facilities
- Regional projects: large-scale projects involving multiple eligible applicants that will achieve greater cost effectiveness and regional efficiency and resilience, and can include operations and safety or vehicle acquisition
- Vehicle acquisition: applicants may request multiple vehicles that will enhance the provision of emergency services

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include: fire departments; non-affiliated emergency medical services (EMS) organizations; and primary state fire training academies (SFTAs) for each state and territory, as listed online at www.usfa.fema.gov/pocs.

FUNDING

An unspecified amount of funding is available for this program overall, of which \$310.5 million is available to support approximately 2,500 awards through this program. Available funds will be allocated among eligible categories of applicants as follows:

- Non-affiliated EMS organizations: no more than 2 percent of funds

- EMS organizations: at least 3.5 percent of available funds for emergency services provided by fire departments and non-affiliated EMS organizations
- SFTAs: no more than 3 percent of available funds, and no more than \$500,000 each

No applicant may receive more than 1 percent of available funds or \$3.45 million through this component; however, this limit may be waived in cases of extraordinary need. In addition, all applicants are limited to the following maximum award amounts, which may not be waived, based on the population of the jurisdiction that they serve:

- 100,000 people or fewer: \$1 million
- 100,001 to 500,000 people: \$2 million
- 500,001 to 1 million people: \$3 million
- 1,000,001 to 2.5 million people: \$3.45 million
- More than 2.5 million people: \$3.45 million

A statutory waiver is available subject to extraordinary need. Waivers will allow entities to increase their awards with a maximum of:

- 1,000,001 to 2.5 million people: \$6 million
- More than 2.5 million people: \$9 million

Funding limits for joint/regional projects are based on the population the project will serve. Such awards will not count toward the funding limit for the host organization.

Applicants can apply for micro-grants, which are \$25,000 or less, in the operations and safety program area. Micro-grant requests do not impact an applicant's request or federal participation under vehicle acquisition or regional projects.

The project period of performance will be for 12 months from the award date; however, extensions may be requested.

MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must generally provide a nonfederal cash match equal to 15 percent of the award amount, except for small communities. Small communities must provide matching funds as follows:

- Applicants serving jurisdictions of 20,000 residents or fewer: at least 5 percent of the award amount
- Applicants serving jurisdictions of more than 20,000 and not more than 1 million residents: at least 10 percent of the award amount

The cost share for SFTAs will be based on the total population of the state. The cost share for regional projects will be based on the aggregate population of the primary first-due response area of the host and participating partner organizations. The funding agency may waive or reduce matching

requirements in cases of demonstrated economic hardship. The provision of matching contributions in excess of the required proportion will not result in priority consideration during the application evaluation process. In-kind contributions may not be used as a match; however, on a case-by-case basis, the funding agency may permit the trade-in value of equipment or vehicles already owned by the applicant to be used as a match.

MOST RECENT SOLICITATION

09/01/2016 – 11/18/2016

AGENCY CONTACT

Program Staff

(866) 274-0960

FireGrants@dhs.gov

<https://www.fema.gov/assistance-firefighters-grant>

FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY (FP&S)

Department: Department of Homeland Security

Agency: Federal Emergency Management Agency

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The purpose of the FP&S Grant Program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards by assisting fire prevention programs and supporting firefighter health and safety research and development. FP&S Grants are offered to support projects in two activities:

- **Fire Prevention and Safety Activity:** FP&S Activities are projects designed to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate the incidence of death and injuries caused by fire and fire-related hazards. Accordingly, the four project categories eligible for funding under this activity are:
 - Community Risk Reduction (formerly General Education/Awareness);
 - Code Enforcement/Awareness;
 - Fire & Arson Investigation; and
 - National/State/Regional Programs and Studies.
 - **Firefighter Safety Research and Development (R&D) Activity:** R&D projects are aimed at improving firefighter safety, health, or wellness through research and development that reduces firefighter fatalities and injuries. The five project categories eligible for funding under this activity are:
 - Clinical Studies;
 - Technology and Product Development;
 - Database System Development;
 - Dissemination and Implementation Research; and
 - Preliminary Studies.
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APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants for the FP&S activity includes: fire departments; and national, regional, state, local, tribal, and non-profit organizations that are recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention and safety programs and activities. Both private and public nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for funding in this activity.

Eligible applicants for the Firefighter Safety Research and Development Activity (R&D) include: National, state, local, Native American tribal, and non-profit organizations, such as academic (e.g., universities), public health, occupational health, and injury prevention institutions. Both private and public non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for funding in this activity.

FUNDING

A total of \$34.5 million is available overall to support approximately 100 awards of up to \$1.5 million through this program. The period of performance for FP&S activities is generally 12 months. The period of performance for R&D may last up to 12 months, 24 months, or 36 months.

MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must provide nonfederal matching cash or in-kind contributions of at least 5 percent of the award amount. In cases of economic hardship, cost share requirements may be waived. Eligible in-kind contributions include complementary activities and the provision of: staff; facilities; services; material; and equipment.

MOST RECENT SOLICITATION

04/10/2017 – 05/19/2017

AGENCY CONTACT

Program Staff

(866) 274-0960

firegrants@fema.dhs.gov

<https://www.fema.gov/fire-prevention-safety-grants>

STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANTS PROGRAM

Department: Department of Homeland Security

Agency: Federal Emergency Management Agency

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The purpose of this program is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond effectively to emergencies, and assure that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. Funding is provided to improve staffing and deployment capabilities, so that departments can respond to emergencies more safely and effectively. Awarded recipients must achieve more efficient responses and safer incident scenes, thereby ensuring communities have improved protection from fire and fire-related hazards. Award recipients must also maintain operational staffing at the level that existed at the time of award, in addition to those positions funded through this program; no lay-offs will be permitted during the project period. With enhanced staffing levels, awarded applicants should experience a reduction in response times and an increase in the number of trained personnel assembled at the incident scene. Projects must address fire personnel under one of the following categories:

- Hiring
- Recruitment and retention

This program also supports the National Preparedness Goal. To meet this goal, funding will support efforts to build and sustain core capabilities across the prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery mission areas. For FY 2016, examples of desired outcomes include building and sustaining core capabilities, such as fire management and suppression, and public health and medical services. The funding agency prefers applicants that can ensure that all first-arriving apparatus are staffed with a minimum of four qualified personnel who are capable of initiating the suppression response.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants for projects to hire firefighters include: volunteer fire departments; combination fire departments; and career fire departments.

Eligible applicants for projects to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters include: volunteer fire departments; combination fire departments; and national, state, local, or tribal organizations that represent the interests of volunteer firefighters and individual fire departments.

Municipalities and fire districts may apply on behalf of fire departments lacking the legal status to do so.

FUNDING

A total of \$345 million is available to support approximately 300 awards through this program. Approximately 10 percent of program funding is set aside for recruiting and retaining

volunteer firefighters, of which 33 percent is limited to national, state, local, or tribal organizations that represent the interests of volunteer firefighters. Ten percent of program funding is set aside for awards for volunteer or majority volunteer fire departments for the hiring of firefighters. Project periods are as follows:

- Hiring: projects will last for 36 months
- Recruitment and retention: projects will last for 48 months

MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Matching funds are not required for applicants proposing recruitment and retention projects. Applicants proposing hiring projects must provide a nonfederal cash match as follows:

- Year 1: at least 25 percent of actual costs incurred
- Year 2: at least 25 percent of actual costs incurred
- Year 3: at least 65 percent of actual costs incurred

Applicants proposing hiring projects may request a waiver or reduction of the matching requirements if they experience economic hardship.

MOST RECENT SOLICITATION

12/22/2016 - 02/10/2017

AGENCY CONTACT

Program Staff

(866) 274-0960

firegrants@fema.dhs.gov

<https://www.fema.gov/fire-prevention-safety-grants>