



FEMA

# **Assistance to Firefighters 2011 Grant Program**

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# Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

The purpose of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program is to enhance the ability of first responders to protect the health and safety of the public from fire and related hazards.



# AFG Offers Three Grant Programs



**Assistance to  
Firefighters Grants**



**Staffing for Adequate  
Fire and Emergency  
Response Grants**



**Fire Prevention  
and Safety  
Grants**



**FEMA**

# Total FY 2011 Appropriation



**AFG \$370 million**



**SAFER \$405 million**



**FP&S \$35 million**

# Eligible Applicants



Fire Departments



Nonaffiliated EMS

# Required Cost Share (Local Match) is Based on the Population Protected

Population less than  
20,000

5%

Population 20,000 to  
50,000

10%

Population 50,000 or  
greater

20%

# Maximum Funding Levels

Population of  
500,000 or less

**\$1,000,000**

Population between  
500,000 and 1 million

**\$1,750,000**

Population of more  
than 1 million

**\$2,750,000**

# Exciting New Changes

- The Guidance is shorter, more user friendly, and highlights the funding priorities. (High, Medium, Low)
- Each project in your application will be scored on its own merits, provided it meets the funding priorities set by the AFG's Criteria Development Group.
- Quick reference guides have been provided.
- AFG is partnering with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) by providing a limited free Web link to the NFPA guidelines.
- Additional changes will be covered in later slides

# DUNS and CCR Updates

## Central Contractor Registration (CCR)

- Since October 1, 2003, it has been federally mandated that any organization wishing to do business with the Federal government under a FAR-based contract must be registered in CCR before being awarded a contract. ***This includes applicants and grantees for the AFG Program.***
- A **DUNS number** is required to apply for a grant and to register with the CCR. must revalidate at least once a year
- **CCR registration** is NOT required to apply for a grant

**For “New Registration” go to:**

**[www.bpn.gov/ccr/grantees.aspx](http://www.bpn.gov/ccr/grantees.aspx)**



# Application Scoring

Example :Your application has three projects.

## **Project 1: Replace Old, Outdated SCBA**

- Electronic Prescore 91**
- Peer Reviewers' Score 89**

## **Project 2: Purchase P-25-Compliant Radios**

- Electronic Prescore 94**
- Peer Reviewers' Score 84**

## **Project 3: Generator for Unoccupied Substation**

- Electronic Prescore 50**
- NOT PANELED ---**

# Application Scoring

- The score for each project will carry the same weight: 50 percent will be from the electronic prescore and 50 percent will be from an average of the Peer Review Panelists' scores. (The Generator Project will not be paneled).
- The final score will be based on two projects. The generator project will be disregarded.

$$\text{SCBA } (91 + 89) 180 \div 2 = 90$$

$$\text{Radios } (94 + 84) 178 \div 2 = 89$$

**One or both projects might be funded.**

# Application Changes

- Applicants will no longer be asked to write a single Narrative Statement for their entire application.
- In the *Request Details* section for each activity, e.g., Training, Equipment, you will be asked to provide written Narratives. You will write Narratives in four separate text boxes as they relate to the requested activity:
  - Project description
  - Cost benefit
  - Statement of effect of the funds, and
  - Additional information.

# Application Changes

## Financial Need

Your organization's financial need for the grant, which formerly was discussed in the *Narrative Statement*, now should be discussed earlier in the *Department Characteristics (Part II)* section of the application.

# Financial Need

In *Department Characteristics (Part II)*, explain:

- Why do you need money from the Federal Government and why can't you complete this project without Federal funds?
- Describe your income compared to expenses to illustrate current funding deficiencies.
- Explain other attempts you have made to fund department needs (e.g., fundraisers, donations, funds from insurance, taxes, fees for service or subscription service).
- Explain financial and community trends or changes (shrinking economy or rapid growth).

# Application Changes

## In *Department Characteristics (Part I)*

- You will be asked whether the department is compliant to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements.

## In *Department Characteristics (Part II)*

- You will be asked to give the percentage of your annual budget that comes from
  - EMS Billing
  - Fees for Services other than EMS billing (e.g., vehicle extrication)

# AFG Program Area & Priorities

- Up to three separate funding applications may be submitted:
  - Operations and Safety
  - Vehicle Acquisition
  - Regional Projects
- Be sure to check the Funding Priorities in the Program Guidance before deciding on the items or projects for which you will request assistance.
- The AFG Program Guidance will be posted on the website <http://fema.gov/firegrants>.





# Fire Department Vehicle Acquisition Activity

# AFG Vehicle Grants

- Vehicle Changes
  - Applicants may request multiple vehicles, but the total amount requested will be limited to their financial cap, which is based on population.
  - Ambulances are now included as a High Priority under Fire Department Vehicles.
  - Fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations that protect urban, suburban and **rural** areas or communities may request multiple vehicles in a single application.
- Previous vehicle awardees are eligible to apply in 2011.
- A variety of vehicles may be requested. However, selecting lower priority vehicles will decrease your application's competitiveness.

# Fire Apparatus Priorities

Priority	Urban Communities	Suburban Communities	Rural Communities
1 (H)	Pumper Ambulance Aerial Quint (Aerial <76') Quint (Aerial >76') Rescue	Pumper Ambulance Aerial Quint (Aerial <76') Quint (Aerial >76') Tanker/Tender	Pumper Ambulance Brush/Attack Tanker/Tender Quint (Aerial <76')
2 (M)	Command Hazmat Light/Air Rehab Foam Truck	Rescue Command Light/Air Hazmat Brush/Attack	Command Hazmat Rescue Light/Air
3 (L)	ARFF Brush/Attack Foam Truck Fire Boat Tanker/Tender Highway Safety Unit	ARFF Rehab Highway Safety Unit Fire Boat Foam Truck	Foam Truck Aerial Highway Safety Unit ARFF Rehab Fire Boat



# Equipment

- Equipment Changes
  - Extended warranties and service agreements, when offered, are now eligible on all items.
  - Boats 20 feet or less in length are now eligible for funding as an Equipment Project.
- Items requested in the Equipment category should meet any regulatory requirements and National Fire Protection Association or Department of Homeland Security-adopted standards.

# Training

## Training Changes

Stand-alone Flashover Simulators are no longer eligible for funding. However you can still request commercially manufactured Mobile Burn Trailers.



- In *Department Characteristics (Part I)*,
  - FD applicants will be asked the percentage of active firefighters who meet the NFPA standard for Firefighter I and Firefighter II.
  - If less than 100% , applicants will be asked if their application will request a training grant to reach full compliance.
  - If the applicant is *not* requesting training funds to reach 100% compliance with NFPA, the applicant will be asked to describe its plan to achieve full compliance with the standard.

# Personal Protective Equipment



- Changes

- Applications for turnout gear may now request complete sets or list the individual pieces of the turnout ensemble needed.
- In requests for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), the highest priority will be given to replacing SCBA manufactured before the 2002 Edition of NFPA 1981.

- You will be asked to provide significant detail about your existing equipment inventory.
- The age of your existing equipment will be considered in all phases of review.

# Wellness and Fitness

- Entry-level physicals (NFPA 1582)
- Immunizations
- Periodic health screenings
- Behavioral health program
  - is now required as one of the four primary activities to receive a wellness and fitness grant.
  - If your department does not currently offer a Behavioral Health Program, you must request funding to establish a program before requesting other wellness and fitness projects, such as fitness equipment.



# Modification to Facilities

- Sprinkler systems
- Smoke, fire alarm notification systems
- Source-capture vehicle exhaust systems
- Air quality systems
- Emergency power generators
- Vehicle-mounted exhaust filtration systems



Note: Grants will not be provided to modify buildings constructed after 2003.

# Modification to Facilities

## Funding Priorities

- Requests for direct source-capture systems, sprinkler and smoke/fire alarm systems
- Stations with sleeping quarters and/or occupied 24/7

## Additional Considerations

- Age of the building – older buildings receive higher priority for funding



Note: Grants will not be provided to modify buildings constructed after 2003.



# EMS Applications

# Nonaffiliated EMS

- **A nonaffiliated EMS**

- A public or nonprofit emergency medical service organization that provides direct emergency medical services, including emergency medical transport to a specific geographic area on a first-due basis, but is not affiliated with a hospital and does not serve a geographic area where EMS is adequately provided by a fire department.

- **Ineligible Organizations**

- EMS organizations and rescue squads that do not transport
- Fire-based EMS organizations
- Hospital-based or -affiliated EMS

# EMS Applications

- Up to three separate applications may be submitted:
  - EMS Operations and Safety
  - Vehicle Acquisition
  - Regional Projects
- EMS Vehicles
  - A total of \$1.85 million is available.
  - Applicants may request multiple vehicles.
  - Requests are limited to the financial cap.



# EMS Vehicle Priorities

**Priority  
One  
(H)**

Ambulances or  
transport units to  
support EMS

**Priority  
Two  
(M)**

First Responder  
non-transport  
vehicles

Operations  
vehicles  
(Hazmat,  
rescue)

**Priority  
Three  
(L)**

Other  
specialty  
vehicles

# EMS Operations and Safety Activities

**Personal Protective Equipment**

**Training**



**Equipment**

**Modifications to Facilities**

**Wellness/Fitness Services**



# Regional Applications

# Regional Applications

- Any eligible organization may act as a host for a regional application.
- A regional project is one in which multiple organizations serving more than one local jurisdiction benefit directly from the activities implemented with the grant funds.

# Regional Application

- Changes
  - New this year is the ability to request Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as a Regional Project. Turnout gear & SCBAs are eligible. However, participants in the project will be reviewed for previous grant awards regarding age of SCBA.
- Eligible Regional Grant Projects
  - Communications projects
  - Training
  - Equipment
  - PPE/SCBA



# Questions

# Planning Your Application

**Risk:** Exposure to the chance of injury or loss; a hazard or dangerous chance

## What are the Risks in your community?

- Aging structures not built to any standard or fire code
- Lack of adequate water supply
- Hazardous materials
- Major transportations routes, such as interstate highways or railways

# Risk Assessment

## Determine Your Capabilities

- Are you sufficiently equipped to safely respond to your community's risks?
- Where are your responders and citizens vulnerable?
- Would the operational condition of your equipment and infrastructure put your responders and citizens at risk?
- After determining the *risks*, assess your *capability* to meet them.
- Then match your risks and capabilities to the Program Priorities
- Apply for only top priority items that address your organization's highest risk or need.

# Planning Your Application

- Use the team approach to developing your application and Narrative responses for the *Request Details* activities.
- Research your answers.
- Enlist a third-party individual who is not involved in the writing process to review and evaluate the clarity and reasonableness of your application.
- Plan to complete and submit your application well in advance of the closing date.

# Four critical elements must be addressed for EACH Project

- **Project Description**
- **Cost Benefit**
- **Statement of Effect**
- **Additional Information**

# Project Description

- What you are requesting funding for, including description of the major budget items, how much will it cost?
- Do you have the training for items requested or will you require training?
- Describe any special issues.
- Explain the identified risk and problem?
- What is your solution or remedy?

# Cost Benefit

- Explain the anticipated benefits of the grant funded project as opposed to the costs involved.
- Provide justification for the budget items in terms of frequency of use vs. cost.
- Describe any projected increases in efficiency of operations.
- Describe any anticipated improvements in interoperability.
- Explain the consequences of not receiving the award.

# Statement of Effect

- How will this award affect the daily operations of your department? How will it affect your department's ability to protect lives and property?
- How will this grant improve firefighter safety and reduce loss of life and property?
- Discuss the grant's benefits related to frequency of use.
- Describe how you will measure the results of your project and the effects of the grant.

# Additional Information

- Provide details about your request that were not covered in any other section or that deserve to be emphasized.
- Include any information about your department or project you feel would enhance or help justify your grant request.
- Re-state why it is important that your particular application be funded. Why is it critical?

# Key Points

- Remember, your peers will be reading your Narrative responses, therefore, write so that your need is clear.
- Relate only local information – not national statistics.
- Provide information the reviewers do not know, e.g., information unique to your community or area that might influence how your peers view your application.

# Helpful Hints

- Write and edit the Narratives offline. Cut and paste the text into the text boxes of the online application.
- Make sure you have provided four Narratives for each activity in the *Request Details* section before you submit your application.
- Avoid using templates and brand names in Narratives.

# Helpful Hints

- Be specific and to the point.
- Apply for eligible, high-priority items.
- Make sure the data in the Narratives are consistent with the rest of the application.
- Review all application information before submission.

# Remember

- The single most important thing you can do to ensure your department has the best opportunity for success in the AFG Program is to match your highest needs to AFG funding priorities.

## **Follow the Program Priorities!**

- Edit all you need but once the application has been submitted, it cannot be changed.

**FY 2011**  
**Staffing for Adequate Fire and  
Emergency Response Grants  
(SAFER)**



**FEMA**



# FY 2011 SAFER

- \$405 million - anticipating a Fall Application Period
- Hiring Activity
  - Career, Combination, and Volunteer Fire Departments
  - Note: Municipalities and fire districts may apply on behalf of departments lacking the ability or legal status to apply on their own.
- Recruitment & Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity
  - Volunteer and Combination Fire Departments
  - State and local organizations with an interest in volunteer firefighters

# SAFER

## Purpose and Goal

- Purpose: Provide financial assistance to help departments increase the number of frontline firefighters.
- Goal: Assist fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities so they may respond to emergencies and assure communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

# SAFER Hiring And Recruitment and Retention

- Hiring New Firefighters: To increase the number of front-line staffing.
  - FY 2011 SAFER guidelines are still being developed.
  - Visit [www.fema.gov/firegrants](http://www.fema.gov/firegrants) for updated information.
- Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighter Grants Activities: To bring about a net increase in the number of trained, certified, and competent firefighters, or to retain current firefighters.

# Hiring Grant - Eligible Costs

In volunteer and mostly volunteer combination departments, SAFER-funded firefighters may:

- Work a 40-hour per week schedule instead of a 24-hour shift schedule
- Have collateral assignments, e.g., fire chief, training officer, fire inspector, public educator
- Be the department's first career firefighter

# Recruitment and Retention Grant

## Eligible Activities

- Salary and benefits for a Recruitment and Retention coordinator
- Explorer, cadet, and/or mentoring programs
- Reimbursement of costs incurred while attending required training, including lost wages, mileage, lodging, & per diem.
- Length-of-service awards and other retirement benefits (based on participation)
- Insurance packages [accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D), disability, health, dental, life, etc.]

# Recruitment and Retention

## Eligible Activities

- Stipends such as fuel reimbursement for responding to incidents or other operational activities.
- Marketing costs to recruit new volunteer members.
- Do not be afraid to select *Other* - describe the activity & how it meets your department needs.
- Tuition assistance is available for higher education, including college tuition and professional certifications (more than what the department typically funds for required minimum staffing firefighter certification).

**FY 2011**  
**Fire Prevention & Safety and**  
**Firefighter Research &**  
**Development Grants**  
**(FP&S)**



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# FY 2011 FP&S

- Funding & Application
  - Funding \$35 million
  - Tentative application period in winter 2011–2012
- Eligible Agencies
  - *Fire departments and nonprofit organizations* that have experience and expertise in fire prevention programs can apply under the Fire Prevention and Safety activity.
  - Fire departments are not eligible to apply under the Research and Development activity.

# FP&S Eligible Categories

Applicants may apply under the following categories:

- General Education/Awareness
- Code Enforcement/Awareness
- Fire and Arson Investigation
- National/State/Regional Programs and Studies

## Examples of Eligible Projects

- General prevention/awareness, Public education
- Smoke alarm installation, Sprinkler awareness
- Juvenile fire setter projects
- Code enforcement/awareness, Fire and arson investigation

# The FP&S Narrative

- Fire Prevention and Safety Applications can contain more than one project (up to three), such as home fire safety for children, fire extinguisher training for local business' and code compliance for the community.
  - Be sure the narrative for each activity is clearly defined and completely independent of the other.
  - List each activity separately to enable the peer reviewer to rate each activity based on its potential value based on program priorities.
  - Project(s) may be funded based on the merits of the specific activity.

# FP&S Cost Share

- For *fire departments*, the cost share is the same as in the AFG Program and is based on population:
  - Less than 20,000 = 5%
  - Between 20,000 and 50,000 = 10%
  - Over 50,000 = 20%
- For all other applicants, there is no cost share.

# Procurement Integrity

- Competition
- Documentation
- Specifications
- Conflicts of Interest



For more information on procurement integrity refer to the Code of Federal Regulations.

In MSN or Google search type “CFR 44 Part 13.36”

# Competition

- Grantees are expected to promote competition. This means soliciting prices from multiple vendors and manufacturers.
- Purchases should be made as a result of the competition—from the vendor or manufacturer who best meets the requirements and provides the grantee with the best price and quality.
- The timeliness of delivery should be considered when making these decisions.

# Documentation & Specifications

- Documentation
  - Grantees are required to maintain documentation related to purchases.
  - Grantees who fail to document purchases may find that expenditures are disallowed.
- Specifications
  - Specifications shall clearly describe the requirements of the product to be purchased or contracted.
  - However, specifications may not be written in a way that unnecessarily limits, restricts, or eliminates competition.

# Specifications cont'd

- Grantees cannot impose in-state or local geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals.
- Grantees cannot use specifications obtained from vendors if they are found to be restrictive or proprietary.
- Do not indicate brand names in your application or in your specifications.
- Grantees who specify brand name products may be asked to provide DHS with their procurement documents (such as requests for proposals, invitations for bids, or independent cost estimates).

# Conflicts of Interest

- Members of your department who work for vendors or manufacturers:
  - Cannot work on the application, Develop specifications, or Develop statements of work
  - Cannot participate in the procurement of any requested item in the grant
  - Must document the procedures used to avoid a conflict of interest during the procurement process.
- Those who may not benefit from the procurement with grant funds include:
  - Volunteers, Officers, Members, Employees, Family members, and Grant writers

# Nine Stakeholder Organizations

If you would like to be considered as a panelist for one of our Peer Review Panels, please contact one of these organizations & send them an outline of your background and experience in the fire service.

- IAFC: International Association of Fire Chiefs
- IAFF: International Association of Firefighters
- NVFC: National Volunteer Fire Council
- NFPA: National Fire Protection Association
- NASFM: National Association of State Fire Marshals
- IAAI: International Association of Arson Investigators
- ISFSI: International Society of Fire Service Instructors
- NAFTD: North American Fire Training Directors
- CFSI: Congressional Fire Services Institute



# Questions?

**Thank You & I wish Success in getting your AFG awards**



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