



Homeland Security

FY 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program (FP&S)

Overview

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is an important component of the larger, coordinated effort to strengthen the Nation's overall level of preparedness and ability to respond to fire and related hazards. Since 2001, the AFG program has provided approximately \$7 billion in grants to first-responder organizations to obtain much-needed emergency response equipment, personal protective equipment, firefighting and emergency vehicles, and training.

Purpose

The purpose of the AFG Program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The purpose of the Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Program is to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate incidences of deaths and injuries caused by fire and fire related hazards. Funding under FP&S also supports Firefighter Safety, Research and Development (R&D) activities. The allocation of FP&S awards is a highly competitive process; awards are determined based on an applicant's ability to both address FP&S program priorities and provide the most compelling justification for their need. Applicants whose requests meet these criteria are reviewed by a review panel composed of fire service personnel.

Funding

In FY 2017, Congress appropriated a total of \$345 million to carry out the activities of the AFG Program. The statute that authorizes AFG includes a requirement that no less than ten percent of the appropriated funds support fire prevention and safety activities, which include assisting fire prevention programs and supporting firefighter health and safety research and development. Therefore, no less than \$34.5 million of the appropriation must be awarded for fire prevention and safety activities.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants for the FP&S activity include fire departments; and national, regional, state, local, Native American tribal organizations, or nonprofit organizations that are recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention and safety programs and activities.

Eligible applicants for the R&D activity include national, regional, state, and local non-profit organizations, such as academic (i.e., universities), public health, occupational health, and injury prevention institutions, especially those that are recognized for their experience and expertise in firefighter safety research and development programs or whose applications otherwise demonstrate strong research and development experience and expertise with potential to improve firefighter safety. Under AFG's authorizing statute, fire departments are not eligible to apply for funding in the R&D activity.

Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. For-profit organizations are not eligible to receive a FP&S grant award.

Program Highlights

Two areas of activities were eligible for funding through FY 2017 AFG FP&S awards:

- **Fire Prevention**
 - a. Community Risk Reduction
 - Smoke Alarms: Including addressing the needs of the disabled in your community (i.e., deaf/hard of hearing smoke alarms).
 - Sprinkler Awareness
 - Public Education
 - Training
 - General Prevention/Awareness:
 - Wildland Fire Prevention Programs
 - Risk Assessments
 - Juvenile Fire setter Projects
 - b. Code Enforcement/Awareness
 - c. Fire & Arson Investigation
 - d. National/State/Regional Programs and Studies

- **Firefighter Safety Research and Development:**
 - a. Behavioral, clinical, and social science studies
 - b. Technology and product development studies
 - c. Research regarding dissemination and implementation of effective programs and products
 - d. Database Systems
 - e. Early Career Investigators

Application Process and Evaluation Criteria

Program staff will screen submitted applications to affirm the eligibility for award of both the applicants and projects. Ineligible applications will not be considered for funding. For R&D applications, panels of reviewers will be assigned that includes fire service experts and science and technology experts who have expertise pertaining to the subject matter of the proposal.

Fire Prevention and Safety Activity: Funding decisions will be informed by an assessment of how well the application addresses the criteria and considerations listed below. Applications will be reviewed by a Technical Evaluation Panel using weighted evaluation criteria to score the project. These scores will impact the ranking of a project for funding.

Research and Development Activity: All Research and Development applications will go through a preliminary review process. Eligible applications will be reviewed and scored by a panel of fire service experts to assess the need for the research results and the likelihood that the results would be implemented by the fire service in the United States.

The R&D applications that are determined to be most likely to be implemented to enable improvement in firefighter safety, health or wellness will be deemed to be in the “competitive range” and will be forwarded to the second level of application review, the scientific panel review process. This panel will be comprised of scientists and technology experts who have expertise pertaining to the subject matter of the proposal.

Scientific reviewers will independently score application in the competitive range and, if necessary, discuss the merits or shortcomings of the application in order to reconcile any major discrepancies identified by fellow reviewers.

With input from these panels, for the highest ranked applications, FEMA will review each application’s strengths and weaknesses, how best the strengths fit the priorities of the FP&S Program, and how readily the weaknesses may be resolved to support likely impact of the project to improve firefighter safety, health, or wellness.

FP&S Resources

For additional information on the FY 2017 FP&S program please visit our web site at: www.fema.gov/fire-prevention-safety-grants. You may also contact the AFG Program Help Desk by calling 1-866-274-0960 or via email at firegrants@fema.dhs.gov

Note: The funding for this grant program is through the Assistance Firefighters Grant Program. In 2017, \$345 million is the FY 2017 appropriation for the AFG initiative. From this appropriation, \$34.5 million will be allocated to the FY 2017 FP&S Grant Program.