



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FIRE MARSHALS

FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) 2017 FY FP&S grant application period will open on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 8 AM ET and will close on Friday, March 16, 2018 at 5 PM ET.

To assist our members, we have prepared a summary of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) outlining the specifics of this year's grant opportunity, the criteria, and the priorities. Please make sure to thoroughly review the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) prior to beginning your grant application, it contains the full guidelines and requirements for submission. The NOFO and supporting information can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/fire-prevention-safety-grants>.

FY 2017 Fire Protection & Safety Grant Overview

- \$34,500,000 available funding
- 150 projected number of awards
- 12-36 month period of performance depending on which program is sought
- \$1,500,000 award limit / \$75,000 for Early Career Investigator

Basic Requirements:

- Cost Share or In-Kind match equal to 5% of the grant award
- Only one application allowed, but up to three projects can be submitted under each activity. Each project requires its own separate supporting Budget and Narrative Statement.
- DUNS Number is required
- SAM Registration is required

Summary of Changes from 2016

- An additional priority has been added under the FP&S Activity to the Community Risk Reduction Category to include community level risk assessments.
- Under the FP&S Activity, clarification has been provided to the Code Enforcement/Awareness Priority to ensure inclusion of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) codes for communities with a WUI-wildfire risk.
- Early Career Investigator has been added as project category now eligible for funding under the FP&S R&D Activity.
- Special Emphasis topics have been added under the R&D Activity.

Fire Prevention & Safety Activities

Evaluation Criteria for Fire Prevention & Safety Activities:

1. Financial Need – 10%
2. Vulnerability Statement – 25%
3. Implementation Plan – 25%
4. Evaluation Plan – 25%
5. Cost-Benefit – 10%
6. Funding Priorities – 5%

This is a very competitive process. Applications which meet the highest funding priorities will have the best chance of success.

Fire Prevention and Safety Activity Priorities

- Community Risk Reduction – meeting needs of people with disabilities will score extra
 - Highest Priority
 - Sprinkler Awareness
 - Smoke Alarm Installation
 - Risk Assessment
 - Lower Priority
 - Smoke Alarm Education
 - Public Education
 - Training
 - General Prevention/Awareness
 - Wildland Fire Prevention Programs
 - Juvenile Firesetter Projects
- Code Enforcement/Awareness Priority
 - Highest Priority
 - First time or reinstatement of code adoption and code enforcement, including WUI
 - Lower Priority
 - Assistance for the adoption or awareness of building codes
 - Promotion of code enforcement
 - Support for conducting investigations (including personnel costs, equipment, code books, and/or training assistance)
- Fire/Arson Investigation Priority
 - Highest Priority
 - Projects that aim to aggressively investigate every fire
 - Lower Priority
 - Cost for arson investigation trailers
 - Equipment
 - Arson investigator training
 - Arson prevention training
 - Arson-related surveillance equipment
 - Personnel Costs

- Educational materials
- Media equipment
- National/State/Regional Programs and Studies Priority
 - Highest Priority
 - Projects that focus on residential fire issues and/or firefighter safety and wellness – need to measurably change firefighter behavior and decision-making.

Research & Development Activities

Evaluation Criteria for Research & Development Activities:

Fire Service Evaluation Criteria:

1. Purpose – 25%
2. Implementation by Fire Service – 25%
3. Potential Impact – 15%
4. Barriers – 15%
5. Partners – 20%

Science Panel Evaluation Criteria:

1. Project Goals, Objectives, and Specific Aims – 15%
2. Literature Review – 10%
3. Project Methods – 20%
4. Project Measurements – 20%
5. Project Analysis – 20%
6. Dissemination and Implementation – 15%
7. Cost v. Benefit (additional consideration)
8. Financial Need (additional consideration)

Additional Consideration for Early Career Investigator Projects Only:

1. Mentoring

Research and Development (R&D) Activity Priorities

The goal of the R&D is to reduce firefighter line-of-duty fatalities and injuries through research to improve firefighter safety, health, or wellness.

The NFFF report with the agenda of current priorities can be found here:

<https://www.everyonegoeshome.com/resources/research-symposium-reports/>

Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek partnerships with the fire service. It would be appropriate for most applications to include one or more local or regional fire departments and one or more national or international level fire-related organizations.

- Clinical Studies – projects that address the behavioral, social science, and cultural research as well as physiological and medical research activities.
 - Studies must address the relevant aspects of reducing injuries
 - Studies must have rigorous design that permits attribution of results to the intervention
 - Studies should target the appropriate level of investigation
- Technology and Product Development – includes projects that result in outcomes that can enhance safety of firefighter activities.

- Projects can develop new technology or adapt existing products and technology to new uses
- Projects shall address the safety of firefighters for all types of fire incidents
- Inclusion of cost effectiveness analysis is encouraged.
- Projects need to assess the practicality of deployment and use during actual firefighting operations
- Consideration will be given to the capabilities of partners to assist in the evaluation of the project outcomes.
- Database Development – systematic collection of information that aims to determine the predictors and correlates for incidents pertaining to all injuries. May include:
 - Firefighter demographic and health factors
 - Firefighter employment factors
 - Firefighter safety behaviors
 - Firefighter equipment
 - Personal protective equipment
 - Departmental/organizational safety policies and practices
 - Cultural or social norms regarding injury prevention practices
 - Community-based resources
 - Environmental factors such as local building structures, types of building materials
- Dissemination and Implementation Research – includes the ways new programs, policies, or product are moved to nationwide adoption and use.
 - Must show credible evidence of effectiveness
 - May include the dissemination and implementation of a prior firefighter safety, health, or wellness research and development activity, if shown to be successful
- Preliminary Studies – a one-year duration project may be proposed to obtain enough evidence to justify a future larger study.
- Early Career Investigator – reserved for projects led by a principal investigator who received a PhD or equivalent within five years of application period
 - Must have a fire service partners
 - Applicant must be the sponsoring institution
 - Limited to \$75,000 award

Special Emphasis Topics for Research & Development Activities – these topics will receive additional consideration during the review process:

1. Behavioral Health – to address firefighters’ concerns with PTSD, depression, suicide, and related issues
2. Situation Awareness – to develop tools and methods facilitating the collection and use of information to improve situational awareness
3. Wildland and WUI – to improve wildland firefighter safety, health and wellness, behavioral, clinical, and social research.