

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

FEMA is providing an additional chance to apply for funds under the AFG-S program to support the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and related supplies by the fire service community to help prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overview

FEMA is providing an additional chance for **volunteer** and **combination** fire departments to apply for funding under the FY 2020 AFG-S. Through this funding opportunity, FEMA will directly award funding for PPE and other supplies to support the COVID-19 response. FEMA anticipates opening the application period in October 2020.

Purpose

The purpose of AFG-S is to award grants directly to fire departments to enhance their ability to protect the health and safety of the public, as well as that of first-responder personnel through the purchase of PPE and related essential supplies related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The AFG-S objectives are to provide resources that equip personnel to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and support community resilience. Grants will be awarded, using a competitive process, to applicants whose requests best address the priorities of AFG-S.

Funding

AFG-S is authorized by section 33 of the *Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974*, Pub. L. No. 93-498, as amended (15 U.S.C § 2229) and authorized and funded by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*, Div. B (Pub. L. No. 116-136).

The \$100 million in funding appropriated for AFG-S by the CARES Act is separate and distinct from the FY 2019 AFG Program NOFO published on January 27, 2020. An initial application period for AFG-S funding closed on May 15, 2020. This initial application period was open to career, volunteer, and combination fire departments; nonaffiliated EMS organizations; and state fire training academies. By law, 25 percent of available AFG-S funds must be awarded to volunteer fire departments and another 25 percent must be awarded to combination fire departments. This second application period will be limited to those categories of fire departments to fulfill this requirement. All activities under this solicitation will be limited to the purchase of PPE and related supplies required to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. This includes reimbursement for expenditures made since January 1, 2020.



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Eligibility

Volunteer and Combination Fire Departments operating in any of the 50 states as well as fire departments in the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any federally recognized Indian tribe or tribal organization. A fire department is an agency or organization having a formally recognized arrangement with a state, local, tribal, or territorial authority (city, county, parish, fire district, township, town, or other governing body) to provide fire suppression to a population within a geographically fixed primary first due response area.

A volunteer fire department means a fire department that has an all-volunteer force of firefighting personnel.

A combination fire department means a fire department that has paid firefighting personnel and volunteer firefighting personnel. Departments which pay fees/stipends (Paid on call) are also considered under this category

Volunteer and combination fire departments are eligible to apply in this round even if they had a successful application in the first round; however, applications must support new capabilities. Departments that applied in the first round but were unsuccessful must reapply to be considered for funding in this round; applications from the first round will not automatically carry forward to this round for consideration.

Program Highlights

AFG-S eligible organizations may submit applications under the following categories:

Operations and Safety:

- Personal Protective Equipment

Regional Projects:

- Regional projects in which multiple, eligible organizations (serving more than one local jurisdiction) would benefit directly from the activities requested with grant funds.

Micro Grants:

- \$150,000 will be set aside for micro grants. The maximum dollar amount per micro grant is \$3,000.

Evaluation Criteria

The funding priorities and evaluation criteria are developed from recommendations provided by a criteria development panel composed of fire service professionals representing the major fire service organizations. AFG-S applications will be reviewed through a multi-phase process. All applications will be electronically pre-scored and ranked based on how well they align with the funding priorities. Applications with the highest pre-score rankings will then be scored competitively by members of a Peer Review Panel. Applications will also be evaluated through a series of internal FEMA review processes for completeness, adherence to programmatic guidelines, technical feasibility, and the anticipated effectiveness of the proposed project(s).

ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT – COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM (AFG-S)

Applicants requesting reimbursement or requesting immediate use of PPE will receive a higher consideration than applicants requesting funds to develop future response capabilities. Applicant requests should include information about current supply, response usage, and anticipated peak-use dates.

All submitted applications will be ranked based on the substance of the application, relative to the established funding priorities.

Applications that score the highest and are determined to be in the “competitive range” will undergo further evaluation by a panel of peers from the fire service.

Outreach

In anticipation of opening the application period in October 2020, FEMA will be conducting outreach to eligible applicants. This outreach will include a series of webinars. Information about this funding opportunity also will be posted on <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters>.