Topics

- Schedule Update
- General AFG Grants Cycle
- AFG Overview
- SAFER Overview
- FP&S Overview
- Application Tips
- Questions
A FG Grant Program includes:

- Assistance to Firefighters Grants

- Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response

- Fire Prevention and Safety
Schedule Update

- **AFG Update:**
  - FY 2015 application period closed January 15, 2016
  - FY 2015 panels held February 2016
  - FY 2015 awards will start going out end of April 2016
  - FY 2016 application *tentatively* expected to be released end of June/July 2016.
Schedule Update

- SAFER Update:
  - FY 2015 application period is February 22 to March 25, 2016
  - FY 2015 panels will be held May 2016
  - FY 2015 awards will be made June to September 2016
  - FY 2016 application *tentatively* expected to be released Winter 2016/2017
Schedule Update

- FP&S Update:
  - FY 2015 application period is April 4 to May 6, 2016
  - FY 2015 panels will be held May 2016
  - FY 2015 awards will be made June to September 2016
  - FY 2016 application will *tentatively* be released after SAFER in Winter/Spring 2017
FY 2015 $680 Million Appropriated
(awards will be made by September 30, 2016)

$306,000,000

$340,000,000

$34,000,000
FY 2016 $690 Million Appropriated
(awards will be made by September 30, 2017)

- AFG: Assistance to Firefighters Grant
  - $310,500,000

- SAFER: Safety to Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grants
  - $345,000,000

- FP&S: Fire Protection & Safety Grants
  - $34,500,000
Total Applications/Awards

- From 2001 to 2014 AFG awarded over 63,000 grants totaling over $6 Billion

- FY 2014 AFG
  - 10,000 applications submitted
  - 2,243 awards

- FY 2014 SAFER
  - 1,335 applications submitted
  - 254 awards

- FY 2014 FP&S
  - 986 applications submitted
  - 90 awards
AFG Grant Cycle

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Application Period (30 Days)
- Electronic Pre-Score
  - Some application answers have values assigned to them by the computer. The answers that most closely align with the program’s priorities will score the highest.
  - For example, questions regarding call volume, population protected, and type of community (urban, suburban, rural) affect the scoring for vehicles.
  - The equipment / program(s) requested in the “Request Details” section factor heavily in the scoring.
AFG Grant Cycle

- Peer Panel Review
  - Only high scoring AFG applications move forward to panel review.
  - All SAFER and FP&S applications go to panels.
  - Hundreds of peer reviewers participate each year.
  - Peer reviewers are nominated by each of the 9 major Fire Service Organizations.
  - Peers are assigned to review “like” organizations.
    - For example, career representatives will review career department applications.
AFG Grant Cycle

- Post Panel Review
  - Highest-scoring applications go through a technical review, including evaluation of project budgets to determine if costs are reasonable.

- Referral for Award
  - Applications are rank-ordered starting with the highest-scoring application and combined with the statutory allocation requirements.
  - Applications above $1 million must go through Congressional notification.

- Period of Performance

- Closeout
Nine Stakeholder Organizations

- 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
Overview
Assistance to Firefighters Grants

Mission: To enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated EMS organizations, and State Fire Training Academies (SFTA) for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.
Eligible Applicants for AFG

- Fire Departments (career, combination, volunteer)
  - An agency/organization having a formally recognized arrangement with a state, local, or tribal authority to provide fire suppression to a population within a fixed geographical area on a first-due response basis.

- Non-affiliated EMS Departments
  - A public or private nonprofit emergency medical service organization providing direct emergency medical services including transport, but not affiliated with a hospital and does not serve a geographic area in which emergency medical services are adequately provided by a fire department.

- State Fire Training Academies
  - The primary state fire training academy. A listing of eligible State Fire Training Academy organizations and institutions can be found at: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/
**Funding Allocations**

*Allocation requirement (by % of available grant funds)*

- Not less than 25% to career fire departments
- Not less than 25% to volunteer fire departments
- Not less than 25% to combination fire departments
- Not less than 10% to open competition among Career, Volunteer, and Combination
- Not less than 10% to FP&S Grants
Cost Share/Match

based on population of jurisdiction served

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Range</th>
<th>Cost Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 1 million</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000 to 1 million</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 20,000</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you need help determining your cost share, access the cost share tool at:
http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/100145
AFG Application Types

- AFG is a suite of competitive discretionary grants comprised of three activities/applications:
  - Operations and Safety
  - Vehicle Acquisition
  - Regional Projects

- Eligible applicants may submit only one application for each activity (Operations and Safety, Vehicle Acquisition, or Regional), but may submit for multiple activities within each activity.
## Fire Department, Regional, and State Fire Training Academy Training Priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Training evaluated using national or state standards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Training that brings a department into compliance with recommended NFPA or other national standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Instructor led training that requires student testing to demonstrate academic competence or practical proficiency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Training that benefits the highest percentage of applicable personnel, such as the hazardous materials training within a fire department or training that will be open to other eligible organizations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Operations and Safety - Equipment

High Priorities:

First-time purchase (never owned by applicant) to support existing mission and/or replace obsolete or damaged equipment.

Equipment that has impact on firefighter safety and is required to comply with mandatory regulations or standards.
Operations and Safety - Equipment

- Examples of high priority items:
  - Firefighting equipment (hose, nozzles, tools, etc.)
  - Air refill / cascade system
  - PPE washer/dryer
  - RIT packs
  - Thermal imaging cameras
  - Communications (radios, pagers, etc.)
  - EMS equipment (cardiac monitors, AED’s, etc.)
  - Extrication equipment
  - Training simulators/props
Operations and Safety - PPE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Department, Nonaffiliated EMS, Joint/Regional, and State Fire Training Academy</th>
<th>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Priorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Departments requesting new PPE for the first time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Departments replacing obsolete or damaged PPE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Members without gear</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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![Image of firefighters fighting a fire](image_url)
### Fire Department, Nonaffiliated EMS, Regional, and State Fire Training Academy Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Priorities

Award will be based on the number of eligible seated riding positions in the department’s vehicle fleet and age of existing SCBA, limited to one spare cylinder (unless justified in the Request Details Narrative). With the exception of face pieces, AFG will fund one per trained firefighter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note: AFG considers SCBA (PPE) obsolete if, it is a minimum of two NFPA cycles and 10 years of age or older, from the date of manufacture.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Replacing SCBA compliant with NFPA 1981, 2002 Edition or prior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Replacing obsolete or damaged SCBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Funding every operational member with their own individual face piece</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Operations and Safety – Wellness & Fitness

Fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations must offer, or plan to offer, all four of the following Priority 1 activities:
• Initial medical exams
• Job-related immunization
• Annual medical and fitness evaluation
• Behavioral health

Priority 2:
• Candidate physical ability evaluation
• Formal fitness and injury prevention program/equipment
• Injury/illness rehab
• IAFF or IAFC peer fitness trainer program(s)
• Formal fitness and injury prevention program/equipment
• IAFF or IAFC peer fitness trainer program
Operations and Safety – Facility Modifications

No new construction or any modification that may change the structure’s footprint or profile.

Highest Priority: Departments requesting direct, source capture exhaust systems, sprinkler systems, or smoke/fire detectors.

Facilities with sleeping quarters and occupied 24/7 are a high priority.

Older structures receive the highest consideration for funding.

Note: Grants will NOT be provided to modify buildings constructed after 2003.
Regional Applications

- A regional application is one in which multiple organizations serving more than one local jurisdiction benefit directly from the activities implemented with the grant funds.

- Eligible projects:
  - Operations and Safety (training, equipment, PPE)
  - Vehicle acquisition

- An eligible department must act as Host
  - All partners should be listed in the application
  - Include statistics of all departments involved
  - MOU required
Vehicle Acquisition

- Applications for vehicles will be reviewed on a variety of factors, including:
  - Call volume of primary first due response area or region
  - Replacement of open cab/jump seat configurations
  - Age and mileage of the vehicle being replaced; older equipment receive higher consideration
  - Age of the newest vehicle in the department’s fleet that is like the vehicle to be replaced
  - Average age of the fleet; older equipment within the same class
  - Converted vehicles not designed or intended for use in the fire service
Micro-Grants

- Grants of $25,000 or less (Federal Share)

- Eligibility:
  - Fire Departments and Non-Affiliated EMS Agencies
  - Operations and Safety Activities:
    - Equipment
    - PPE
    - Training

- Applications scoring in the competitive range for panel review may receive additional consideration at panels or post-panel review.
Overview
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

Mission: To assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies, and assure that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.
SAFER Application Types

- Hiring of Firefighters
  - Including subcategories for rehiring, retention, attrition, and new hires
  - Career, combination, and volunteer fire departments are eligible to apply (interest orgs cannot apply)

- Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters
  - Combination fire departments, volunteer fire departments, and national, state, local, or tribal organizations that represent the interests of volunteer firefighters are eligible to apply (career cannot apply)
Period of Performance

- Hiring grants
  - 2 year POP
  - 180 day recruitment period before POP starts
- R&R grants
  - Between 2 and 4 year POP
  - 90 day recruitment period before POP starts
- All grant related purchases and activities must be incurred, received, and completed within the period of performance.
Hiring - Priorities

- First priority: Rehiring firefighters laid off last two years
- Second priority: Retaining firefighters who face imminent layoff (by 07/23/2016) or filling positions vacated through attrition in last two years
- Third priority: Hiring new firefighters
- Reference pages 25-27 of the FY 15 NOFO
  - Priority to bring non-compliant departments back into compliance with NFPA 1710 or 1720
  - Applications resulting in the largest percentage increases in compliance with NFPA 1710 or 1720 receive higher consideration
Hiring – Eligible/Ineligible Costs

- Salary and benefits (actual payroll costs) for SAFER positions
- Will only cover positions hired after the grant award date (except retention positions)
- Will only cover full-time positions (unless previously job-shared)
- The primary assignment of the SAFER position (more than 50%) must be fire suppression, which includes staffing a fire suppression vehicle
Hiring – After Award Requirements

- No lay-offs permitted during period of performance
- Must maintain operational staffing at the level that existed at the time of award, in addition to SAFER-funded positions
  - Applies to the grant period of performance
  - Must take active and timely steps to backfill any operational vacancies
  - Waiver available for economic hardship (waivers are not for SAFER positions)
Recruitment & Retention - Priorities

- Encourage volunteerism

- Refer to pages 25-32 of the FY 2015 NOFO

- The highest priority is to assist departments experiencing a high rate of turnover and with staffing levels significantly below the ideal staffing level required to comply with NFPA 1710 or 1720.

- Organizations that currently have the lowest recruitment and retention rates are given a higher consideration for funding.
R & R – Eligible Costs

- Activities/costs must correlate to identified recruitment or retention needs
- Refer to pages 33-37 of the FY 2015 NOFO

Examples:
- R&R Coordinator
- Awards program
- Advertising/marketing
- PPE
- NFPA 1582 physicals
- Tuition assistance
R&R - Regional Requests

- Fire departments may act as a “host applicant” and apply for a grant that will have a regional impact (i.e., beyond the immediate boundaries of the applicant’s first-due area).
  - One application can support both the department’s own internal needs and the regional initiative
  - Requires information on participating organizations and size/population of region

- Prior to submitting application, host must obtain a letter of understanding or MOU with all partners that outlines responsibilities and asset distribution.
R & R - Interest Organizations

- National, State, Local, or Tribal Organizations that Represent the Interests of Volunteer Firefighters:
  - Organizations that support or represent the interests of firefighters in front of legislative bodies at the local, state, tribal, and federal level. Such organizations include, but are not limited to, state or local firefighter and/or fire chiefs’ associations, volunteer firefighter relief organizations, and associations.

- Intended to create an aggregate increase in the number of trained, certified, and competent firefighters capable of safely responding to emergencies on behalf of the fire departments being represented.
Mission: 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 Application Types

- Fire Prevention and Safety
  - 12 month POP, but complex projects may apply for up to 24 months
  - Categories:
    - General Education/Awareness
    - Code Enforcement/Awareness
    - Fire & Arson Investigation
    - National/State/Regional Programs and Studies

- Research and Development
  - 12, 24, or 36 month POP
  - Categories:
    - Clinical Studies
    - Technology and Product Development
    - Database System Development
    - Dissemination and Implementation Research
    - Preliminary Studies
Eligible Applicants

- Fire Prevention and Safety
  - Fire departments; and national, regional, state, local, Native American tribal, and non-profit organizations that are recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention and safety programs and activities.

- Research and Development
  - National, state, local, tribal, and non-profit organizations, such as academic (e.g., universities), public health, occupational health, and injury prevention institutions. Fire departments are not eligible.
  - Both private and public non-profit organizations are eligible.
  - For-profit organizations, federal agencies, and individuals are not eligible.
FP&S Priorities

- **General Education and Awareness**
  - Programs that target a specific high risk population to conduct both door-to-door smoke alarm installations and provide home safety inspections.
  - Programs that include sprinkler awareness that affect the entire community in this effort, such as educating the public about residential sprinklers, promoting residential sprinklers, and demonstrating working models of residential sprinklers. Installation of sprinkler systems is only eligible if proposed as part of a sprinkler demonstration/educational effort.

- **Code Enforcement/Awareness**
  - Projects that focus on first time or reinstatement of code adoption and code enforcement
FP&S Priorities

- **Fire & Arson Investigation**
  - Projects that aim aggressively to investigate every fire.

- **National/State/Regional Programs and Studies**
  - Projects that focus on residential fire issues and/or firefighter safety projects or strategies that are designed to measurably change firefighter behavior and decision-making.
  - Fire departments that wish to carry out internal, local, firefighter safety projects should apply for this activity under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.
Examples of Ineligible Activities/Items

- Fire suppression equipment, supplies, and vehicles
- Firefighting training tools or equipment, personal protective gear, fitness equipment, or immunizations
- Installation of sprinkler systems that do not include an educational/demonstration component
- Physical fitness equipment or immunizations
- AED, CPR, or fire extinguisher training for operational staff
- Suppression-related training
- Communication equipment including portable radios, or CAD systems
Research and Development Priorities

- In November 2015, the National Fallen Firefighters’ Foundation (NFFF) hosted National Fire Service Research Agenda Symposium (RAS) to update current priorities [http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/resources/research-symposium-reports/](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/resources/research-symposium-reports/)

- Partnerships with fire service are strongly encouraged.

- Applications must address the potential for improvement in firefighter safety, heath, or wellness both in the short term and long term.

- Proposed projects must address the potential for a successful research outcome to be implemented in the fire service and reduce firefighter fatalities or injuries.
Examples of R&D Studies

- Predicting Cardiovascular Risk and Fitness in Firefighters (The President and Fellows of Harvard College)
- FIRE Study: A Prospective Evaluation of Health Behavior Risk for Injury among Firefighters (National Development and Research Institutes, Inc.)
- Firefighter Nonfatal Injury Surveillance System Development (Drexel University)
- Assessment of Web-Based Interactive Methodology for Dissemination and Diffusion (Polytechnic University)
- National Firefighter Sleep Disorders Management Program: Translation to Practice (The Brigham & Women's Hospital, Inc.)
Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements

- 2 CFR Part 200 ("Super Circular") establishes a uniform set of mandatory requirements for federal awards to non-federal entities.

- Language from existing OMB circulars consolidated into one guidance.

- Applies to all awards made after December 26, 2014, including all FY 2014 and 2015 AFG awards.

- Full Text: [http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=704835d27377ef5213a51c149de40cab&node=2:1.1.2.2.1&rgn=div5](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=704835d27377ef5213a51c149de40cab&node=2:1.1.2.2.1&rgn=div5)

Tips for Applying
Applicable to all AFG Grants
Application Tips

- Technical Assistance Tools available at [www.firegrants.gov](http://www.firegrants.gov)
  - Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
  - Application Checklists
  - Get Ready Guides
  - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
  - Self-Evaluation Guides
    - Developed to help you understand the criteria that you must address in your Narrative Statement.
    - The Peer Reviewers will use these to score your narrative.
    - Ask colleague/friends/family to use these to score your narrative.
Application Tips

- Conduct a risk assessment to determine the needs of your organization.

- Match your needs to the high priorities of the AFG Program.
  - Funding priorities are in the NOFO and identified as High (H), Medium (M), or Low (L).
  - Establish a link between the activities being requested in the application and your department needs.
Application Tips

- Describe your department’s needs very clearly in the narrative (application will be read by fellow fire service peers)
  - Do the sequences of your sentences and paragraphs present clear thoughts and ideas?
  - Does your narrative explain your organization’s needs in a way that someone could easily understand?

- Use only local rather than national statistics

- Provide information that is unique to your community

- Make sure that you have described your organizations needs in your voice, do not use boilerplate language or copy from vendors, manufacturers, etc. Do not use brand names.
Application Tips

- Proofread your application.
  - Remember to update "filler" or placeholder text.
  - Have all application fields, or questions, been answered?
  - Make sure that all facts and figures are accurate throughout the entire application.

- Cross check the Request Details section of the application and the Narrative.
Reminder!

- Register with SAM (System for Award Management) prior to submitting an application.
  - https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM
  - SAM registration information MUST match with your AFG application and your DUNS number.
  - Must be updated annually.
Applicant Support

- Help Desk: 1-866-274-0960
- E-Mail: firegrants@dhs.gov
- Website: www.fema.gov/firegrants
- Regional Fire Program Specialist
  www.fema.gov/fire-grant-contact-information
Region 1 AFG Fire Program Specialists

- David L. Parr
  - Ph: (617) 956-7631
  - Cell: (202) 510-8990
  - david.parr@fema.dhs.gov

- Lance D. Harbour
  - Ph: (617) 956-7544
  - Cell: (617) 513-9734
  - lance.harbour@fema.dhs.gov
Questions?

Thank you!

Julia Barron

Fire Program Specialist

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