

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

FEMA is providing \$100 million in supplemental FY 2020 funding for personal protective equipment (PPE) and related supplies to the fire service community to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overview

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant – COVID-19 Supplemental Program (AFG-S) provides funds for the purchase of PPE and related supplies for our nation's first responders during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response. Through this funding opportunity, FEMA will directly award funding for PPE and other supplies to fire departments, State Fire Training Academies (SFTAs), and nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services (NAEMS) organizations to support first responders with COVID-19 response.

Purpose

The purpose of AFG-S is to award grants directly to fire departments, NAEMS organizations, and SFTAs to immediately 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 essential supplies related to the COVID-19 response. The AFG-S objectives are to provide resources that equip personnel to respond to the pandemic and support community resilience. Grants will be awarded using a competitive process for applicants whose requests best address the priorities of AFG-S.

Funding

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

The \$100 million in funding awarded under AFG-S is separate and distinct from the FY 2019 AFG Program NOFO published on January 27, 2020. FEMA will competitively award AFG-S grants to fire departments, NAEMS organizations, and SFTAs. All activities under this solicitation are limited to the purchase of PPE and supplies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. This includes reimbursement for expenditures made since January 1, 2020. The funding source for this grant is the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*, Div. B (Pub. L. No. 116-136).



FEMA

Eligibility

Fire Departments: 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.

NAEMS Organizations: NAEMS organizations operating in any of the 50 states as well as 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 NAEMS organization is an agency or organization that is a public or private nonprofit emergency medical services entity providing medical transport that is not affiliated with a hospital and does not serve a geographic area in which emergency medical services are adequately provided by a fire department.

FEMA considers the following as hospitals under AFG-S:

- Clinics;
- Medical centers;
- Medical college or university;
- Infirmary;
- Surgery centers; and
- Any other institution, association, or foundation providing medical, surgical, or psychiatric care and/or treatment for the sick or injured.

SFTAs: An SFTA that operates in any of the 50 states as well as 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 that has an operational role in the current COVID-19 response is an eligible applicant. Applicants must be designated either by legislation or by a Governor's declaration as the sole state fire service training agency within a state. The designated SFTA shall be the only state agency/bureau/division or entity within that state to be an eligible AFG-S SFTA applicant. SFTAs are limited to applying for activities that are directly associated with PPE and supplies needed to respond to COVID-19.

Program Highlights

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

Operations and Safety:

- Personal Protective Equipment

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

Regional Projects:

- Regional projects in which multiple organizations (fire and/or NAEMS 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. 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 anticipated effectiveness of the proposed project(s).

Applicants requesting reimbursement or requesting immediate use of PPE will receive a higher consideration than applicants requesting funds to prepare for future response capabilities. Applicant requests should align with information about current supply, response usage, and anticipated peak 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 and non-affiliated EMS organizations.