



FEMA

FY 2012 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)

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 has provided approximately \$5.25 billion in grants to first-responder organizations to obtain much-needed emergency response equipment, personal protective equipment, firefighting and emergency vehicles, and training. During fiscal year (FY) 2012, the AFG will award another \$337.5 million to first-responder organizations that need support to improve their capability to respond to fires and emergencies of all types.

*In Fiscal Year 2012, FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program will award approximately *\$337.5 million directly to fire departments and non-affiliated EMS organizations to enhance their response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public and emergency response personnel with respect to fire and all other hazards.*

Purpose

The purpose of the AFG is to award grants directly to fire departments and Emergency Medical Services organizations (EMS) that are unaffiliated with a hospital to enhance their ability to protect the health and safety of the public, as well as that of first-responder personnel. Using a competitive process that is overseen by fire service subject matter experts, grants are awarded to applicants whose requests best address the priorities of the AFG Program.

Funding

The AFG will award approximately \$337.5 million in competitive grants to fire departments and non-affiliated EMS organizations during FY 2012. The application period opened on June 11, 2012, and closed on July 16, 2012, with 12,000 applications having been submitted. Funding for vehicles is limited to 25 percent of the total 2012 AFG appropriation. A minimum of 3.5 percent of the appropriated funds (\$11.8 million) must be awarded for equipment and training grants.

Eligibility

Only fire departments and non-affiliated EMS organizations were eligible to apply for funding. Organizations had to operate in one of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, or Puerto Rico.

A "fire department" is defined as an agency or organization that has a formally recognized arrangement with a State, territory, local or tribal authority (city, county, parish, fire district, township, town, or other governing body) to provide fire suppression to a population within a fixed geographical area on a first-due basis. A "non-affiliated EMS organization" is defined as a public or private nonprofit EMS organization that provides direct emergency medical services, including medical transport, to a specific geographic area on a

first-due basis, but which is not affiliated with a hospital and does not serve a geographic area where such services are provided adequately by a fire department or another primary non-affiliated EMS agency.

Program Highlights

The AFG funds fire departments and non-affiliated EMS organizations. Interested organizations were eligible to submit up to three applications under the followings categories for FY 2012:

Operations and Safety:

- Grant projects funded include professional training, wellness and fitness programs equipment, personal protective equipment, modifications to facilities, and supplies that support firefighting and non-affiliated EMS operations and safety.

Vehicle Acquisition:

- Eligible apparatus included, but were not limited to pumpers, aerials, brush trucks, tankers/tenders, rescue vehicles, and ambulances.

Regional Grants:

- Regional projects in which multiple organizations (Fire and/or non-affiliated EMS) serving more than one local jurisdiction would benefit directly from the activities requested with grant funds.

Evaluation Criteria

AFG funding priorities differ for fire departments and non-affiliated EMS organizations. The funding priorities and evaluation criteria were developed from recommendations provided by a criteria development panel composed of fire service professionals representing the major fire service organizations.

Based on the input received, the FY 2012 AFG priorities remain largely unchanged from FY 2011, with the exception to the following items:

All submitted applications were 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.

Applications that are considered for award will undergo an extensive technical review prior to an award offer.

* \$337.5million is the FY 2012 appropriation. The final amount available for AFG awards is less up to 5% for the management and administration of the AFG program as outlined by the authorization, and less \$35 million which funds the FY 2012 Fire Prevention & Safety grant program.

For additional information on the FY 2012 AFG program please visit our web site at: www.fema.gov/firegrants. You may also contact the AFG Program Help Desk by calling 1-866-274-0960 or via email at firegrants@dhs.gov