

**ORDER: AUTHORIZE PERMISSION TO APPLY FOR SAFER GRANT FOR  
STAFFING OF FIRE DEPARTMENT**

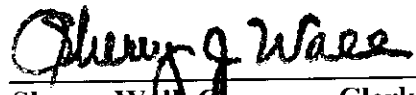
Motion was made by Kevin Frye, duly seconded by David Rikard, to authorize permission to apply for SAFER Grant for staffing of Fire Department.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Supervisor Kevin Frye, voted yes  
Supervisor Jeff Busby, voted yes  
Supervisor David Rikard, voted yes  
Supervisor Chad McLarty, voted yes  
Supervisor Mike Roberts, absent

After the vote, President Busby, declared the motion carried, this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Busby, President  
Board of Supervisors

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Wall, Chancery Clerk

**The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)  
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)  
FY 2016 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)**

**NOTE:** If you are going to apply for this funding opportunity and have not obtained a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and/or are not currently registered in the System for Award Management (SAM), please take immediate action to obtain a DUNS Number, if applicable, and then to register immediately in SAM. It may take 4 weeks or more after you submit your SAM registration before your registration is active in SAM, then an additional 24 hours for Grants.gov to recognize your information. Information on obtaining a DUNS number and registering in SAM is available from Grants.gov at: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>. Detailed information regarding DUNS and SAM is also provided in Section D. Application and Submission Information.

**A. Program Description**

**Issued By**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Grant Programs Directorate (GPD)

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number**

97.083

**CFDA Title**

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

**Notice of Funding Opportunity Title**

Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

**NOFO Number**

DHS-16-GPD-083-000-99

**Authorizing Authority for Program**

Section 34 of the *Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974* (Pub. L. No. 93-498, as amended) (15 U.S.C. § 2229a)

**Appropriation Authority for Program**

*Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2016* (Pub. L. No. 114-113)

**Program Type**

New

### **Program Overview, Objectives, and Priorities**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) is responsible for the implementation and administration of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program.

The SAFER grant program is composed of two activities:

- **Hiring of Firefighters**
  - Career, combination, and volunteer fire departments are eligible to 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

The goal of the SAFER grant program is 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. Local fire departments accomplish this by improving staffing and deployment capabilities so they may more effectively and safely respond to emergencies. With enhanced staffing levels, recipients should experience a reduction in response times and an increase in the number of trained personnel assembled at the incident scene.

While not required for a SAFER grant, it is preferable that the enhanced staffing levels of all SAFER recipients should ensure that all first-arriving apparatus are staffed with a minimum of four qualified personnel (to meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710/1720 standards) who are capable of initiating the suppression response. Ultimately, SAFER recipients should achieve more efficient responses and safer incident scenes; thereby ensuring communities have improved protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

In awarding grants, the Administrator of FEMA shall consider the following:

- The findings and recommendations of the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP)
- The degree to which an award will reduce deaths, injuries, and property damage by reducing the risks associated with fire related and other hazards
- The extent of an applicant's need for a SAFER grant and the need to protect the United States as a whole

The National Preparedness System is the instrument the nation employs to build, sustain, and deliver core capabilities in order to achieve the National Preparedness Goal (Goal) of a secure and resilient nation. Complex and far-reaching threats and hazards require a collaborative and whole community approach to national preparedness that engages individuals, families, communities, private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations, and all levels of government. The guidance, programs, processes, and systems that support each component of the National Preparedness System allow for the integration of preparedness efforts that build, sustain, and deliver core capabilities and achieve the desired outcomes identified in the Goal while maintaining the civil rights of individuals.

The FY 2016 SAFER grant program plays an important role in the implementation of the National Preparedness System by supporting the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities essential to achieving the Goal of a secure and resilient nation. Delivering core capabilities requires the combined effort of the whole community, rather than the exclusive effort of any single organization or level of government.

The FY 2016 SAFER grant program's allowable costs support efforts to build and sustain core capabilities across the Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery mission areas. Examples of desired outcomes for the FY 2016 SAFER grant program include building and sustaining core capabilities, such as Fire Management and Suppression, and Public Health and Medical Services.

Additional details on the National Preparedness Goal can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-goal>

## **B. Federal Award Information**

### **Award Amounts, Important Dates, and Extensions**

**Available Funding for the NOFO:** \$345,000,000

**Projected number of Awards:** 300

**Period of Performance:** 12-48 Months

**Hiring of Firefighters Activity:** The period of performance will be 36 months for all grants awarded under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity. An extension to the period of performance is not permitted.

**Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity:** The period of performance will be between 12 and 48 months for all grants awarded under the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity. An extension to the

period of performance for Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity grants may be granted when, due to circumstances beyond the control of the recipient, activities associated with the award cannot be completed within the stated performance period. For details on the requirements for requesting an extension to the period of performance, please refer to Section H. Additional Information.

**Projected Period of Performance Start Date(s):** 07/01/2017

**Projected Period of Performance End Date(s):** 06/30/2020-06/30/2021

**Funding Instrument**  
Grant

**C. Eligibility Information**

**Eligible Applicants**

- Volunteer fire departments and combination fire departments may apply for funding under both the Hiring of Firefighters Activity and the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity. Separate applications must be completed for each activity. Applicants are limited to one application per activity, per application period. If an applicant submits two applications for the same activity during a single application period, both applications will be disqualified.
- Career fire departments may only apply for funding under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity. Applicants are limited to one application per application period. If an applicant submits two applications, both applications will be disqualified.
- Municipalities and fire districts may submit applications on behalf of fire departments lacking the legal status to do so, such as those under the support of the municipality or district. The municipality or fire district may submit only one application for hiring per application period for each eligible fire department within the municipality or fire district.
- National, state, local, or tribal organizations representing the interests of volunteer firefighters and individual fire departments (volunteer or combination) may only apply for funding under the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity. Applicants are limited to one application per application period. If an applicant submits two applications, both applications will be disqualified.

Table 1 identifies, in general, eligible entities that can apply for FY 2016 SAFER funding within each activity.

**Table 1: Eligible Entities**

	Volunteer Fire Departments	Combination Fire Departments	Career Fire Departments	National, state, local, or tribal volunteer firefighter interest organization
<b>Hiring of Firefighters</b>	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters</b>	✓	✓		✓

The following entity types are **NOT** eligible to apply under this announcement:

- Federal fire departments and fire departments under contract to the Federal Government whose sole responsibility is the suppression of fires on federal installations or lands;
- For-profit fire departments and organizations (e.g., fire departments that do not have specific nonprofit status or that are not municipally based);
- Ambulance services, emergency medical service organizations, rescue squads, auxiliaries, dive teams, and urban search and rescue teams;
- Non-federal airport or port authority fire departments whose sole responsibility is suppression of fires on the airport grounds or port facilities, unless the airport/port fire department has a formally recognized arrangement with the local jurisdiction to provide fire suppression on a first-due basis outside the confines of the airport or port facilities;
- Fire stations that are part of, controlled by, or under the day-to-day operational direction of a larger fire department or agency, or that are not otherwise independent;
- State and local agencies, such as forest service, fire marshals, emergency management offices, hospitals, and training offices;

## **Eligibility Criteria**

### **Minimum Budget Requirement**

At the time of application, the applicant's budget for fire-related programs and emergency response must not be below 80 percent of the applicant's average funding level in the 3 years prior to November 24, 2003.

Applicants experiencing economic hardship may apply for a waiver of this requirement. Please see Appendix A: FY 2016 SAFER Program Updates for additional information.

## **Other Eligibility Criteria**

### ***National Incident Management System (NIMS) Implementation***

SAFER applicants are not required to be in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to apply for funding or to receive an award. However, any applicant who receives an FY 2016 SAFER award must achieve the level of NIMS compliance required by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) over the applicant's emergency service operations (e.g., a local government), prior to the end of the grant's period of performance.

## **Maintenance of Effort (MOE)**

There is no maintenance of effort requirement for the FY 2016 SAFER grant program.

## **Cost Share or Match**

Recipients of SAFER Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity grants are not required to contribute non-federal funds.

Recipients of SAFER Hiring of Firefighters Activity grants are required to contribute non-federal funds subject to a Position Cost Limit and a Cost Share, as described below.

### **Position Cost Limit (No Waiver Available):**

The amount of federal funding provided to a recipient for hiring a firefighter in any fiscal year may not exceed—

- in the first year of the grant, 75 percent of the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter in that department at the time the grant application was submitted;
- in the second year of the grant, 75 percent of the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter in that department at the time the grant application was submitted; and
- in the third year of the grant, 35 percent of the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter in that department at the time the grant application was submitted.

"Usual annual costs" includes the base salary (exclusive of overtime) and standard benefits package (including the **average** health cost, dental, vision, FICA, life insurance, retirement/pension, etc.) offered by fire departments to first-year firefighters. Please refer to Appendix B regarding eligible and ineligible costs for SAFER Hiring of Firefighter Activity grants.

The Position Cost Limit is automatically calculated by the eGrant system in the Budget section of the application.

**Cost Share (Waiver Available):**

In addition to the Position Cost Limit, the Federal portion of the costs of hiring new firefighters under this grant may not exceed:

- 75 percent of the actual costs incurred in the first year of the grant;
- 75 percent of the actual costs incurred in the second year of the grant; and
- 35 percent of the actual costs incurred in the third year of the grant.

Therefore, the recipient is required to contribute at least the following in non-Federal funds:

- 25 percent of the actual costs incurred in the first year of the grant;
- 25 percent of the actual costs incurred in the second year of the grant; and
- 65 percent of the actual costs incurred in the third year of the grant.

A Cost Share of non-federal cash is the only allowable recipient contribution.

**Example:**

The applicant submits a SAFER Hiring of Firefighter Activity grant application for one (1) new firefighter. At the time the application is submitted, the usual annual cost of a first year firefighter in that department is \$100,000. The federal funding, due to the Position Cost Limit, will be limited to:

- Year 1 = \$75,000
- Year 2 = \$75,000
- Year 3 = \$35,000

The grant is awarded and the department accrues the following actual costs during the term of the grant:

- Year 1 = \$80,000
- Year 2 = \$95,000
- Year 3 = \$110,000

In this case, the federal portion will be: