

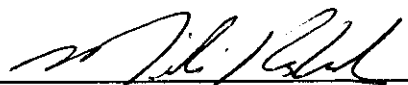
**ORDER: AUTHORIZE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY
FOR FY 19 AFG GRANT, NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000.00, THE
COUNTY'S REQUIRED MATCH WOULD NOT EXCEED \$30,000.00**

Motion was made by Brent Larson, duly seconded by Chad McLarty, to authorize the Fire Department to apply for FY 19 AFG Grant, not to exceed \$300,000.00, and the county's required match would not exceed \$30,000.00.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Supervisor Brent Larson, voted yes
Supervisor Larry Gillespie, voted yes
Supervisor David Rikard, voted yes
Supervisor Chad McLarty, voted yes
Supervisor Mike Roberts, voted yes

After the vote, President Roberts, declared the motion carried, this the 18th day of February, 2020.


Mike Roberts, President
Board of Supervisors


Sherry Wall, Chancery Clerk

**The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Fiscal Year 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG)**

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 four 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 of this NOFO, subsection, Content and Form of Application Submission. An active registration is required in order to apply for funding.

A. Program Description

Issued By

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

Assistance Listings Number (formerly Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number)
97.044

Assistance Listings Title (formerly CFDA Title)
Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)

Notice of Funding Opportunity Title
FY 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grants

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DHS-19-GPD-044-00-99

Authorizing Authority for Program
Section 33 of the *Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974*, Pub. L. No. 93-498, as amended (15 U.S.C § 2229)
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2018-title15/pdf/USCODE-2018-title15-chap49-sec2229.pdf>

Appropriation Authority for Program
Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2019 (Pub. L. No. 116-6)
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-116publ6/pdf/PLAW-116publ6.pdf>

Program Type
New

Program Overview, Objectives, and Priorities

Overview

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program is one of three grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) focus on enhancing the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The AFG Program accomplishes this by providing financial assistance directly to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations, and State Fire Training Academies (SFTA) for critical training and equipment. The AFG Program represents one part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by DHS. Among the five basic homeland security missions noted in the DHS Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, the AFG Program supports the goal to Strengthen National Preparedness and Resilience. In awarding grants, the Administrator of FEMA is required to 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 an AFG grant and the need to protect the United States as a whole; and
- The number of calls requesting or requiring a firefighting or emergency medical response received by an applicant.

The 2018-2022 FEMA Strategic Plan creates a shared vision for the field of emergency management and sets an ambitious, yet achievable, path forward to unify and further professionalize emergency management across the country. The AFG Program supports the goal of Ready the Nation for Catastrophic Disasters. We invite all of our stakeholders and partners to also adopt these priorities and join us in building a stronger Agency and a more prepared and resilient Nation.

Objectives

The objectives of the AFG program are to provide critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.

Priorities

Information on program priorities and objectives for the FY 2019 AFG can be found in Appendix B, FY 2019 AFG Programmatic Information and Priorities.

Performance Metrics

Performance metrics for this program are as follows:

- Percentage of AFG PPE recipients who equipped 100 percent of on-duty active members with PPE in compliance with applicable NFPA and OSHA standards
- Percentage of AFG equipment recipients who reported that the AFG grant brought them into compliance with either state, local, NFPA, or OSHA standards
- Percentage of AFG award recipients who reported having successfully replaced their fire vehicles 25 years old or older in accordance with industry standards

B. Federal Award Information

Award Amounts, Important Dates, and Extensions

Available Funding for the NOFO: \$315,000,000¹

Projected number of Awards: 2,500

Period of Performance: Twelve months from the date of award. For additional information on period of performance extensions, refer to Section H.

Projected Period of Performance Start Date(s): May 1, 2020

Projected Period of Performance End Date(s): April 30, 2021

Funding Instrument: Grant

C. Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants

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, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,² 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

¹ Note that this figure differs from the total amount appropriated under the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2019*, Pub. L. No. 116-6. In this FY 2019 AFG NOFO, percentages of “available grant funds” refers to the total amount appropriated—\$350,000,000—by Pub. L. No. 116-6 to meet the statutory requirements of § 33 of the *Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974*, as amended (codified at 15 U.S.C. § 2229). A portion of these “available grant funds” will be allocated to the Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) program, which will have a separate NOFO and application period. \$35,000,000 will be allocated to FP&S for FY 2019.

² The District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are all defined as “States” in the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974. See 15 U.S.C. § 2203(10).

geographically fixed primary first due response area.

Nonaffiliated EMS organizations: Nonaffiliated EMS 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, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,² or any federally recognized Indian tribe or tribal organization. A nonaffiliated EMS organization is an agency or organization that is a public or private nonprofit emergency medical service 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 the AFG Program:

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

State Fire Training Academies: A State Fire Training Academy (SFTA) 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.² Applicants must be designated either by legislation or by a Governor's declaration as the sole fire service training agency within a state, territory, or the District of Columbia. The designated SFTA shall be the only agency/bureau/division, or entity within that state, territory or the District of Columbia, to be an eligible AFG SFTA applicant.

Eligible Activities

AFG has three activities:

- Operations and Safety
- Vehicle Acquisition
- Regional Projects

Each activity has its own eligibility requirements. These requirements are outlined in **Appendix B: Programmatic Information and Priorities.**

Other Eligibility Criteria

National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)

NFIRS reporting is not a requirement to apply for any AFG Program; however, fire departments that receive funding under this program must agree to provide information to the NFIRS for the period covered by the assistance. If a recipient does not currently

participate in the incident reporting system and does not have the capacity to report at the time of the award, that recipient must agree to provide information to the system for a twelve-month period commencing as soon as possible after they develop the capacity to report. Capacity to report to the NFIRS must be established prior to the termination of the one-year performance period. The recipient may be asked by FEMA to provide proof of compliance in reporting to NFIRS. Any recipient that stops reporting to NFIRS during their grant's period of performance may be subject to the remedies for noncompliance at 2 C.F.R. § 200.338, unless it has yet to develop the capacity to report to NFIRS, as described above. There is no NFIRS reporting requirement for nonaffiliated EMS organizations or SFTAs.

Note: Although data collection is an important tool for understanding and justifying assistance, participation in other data sources, (e.g., National Fire Operations Reporting System [NFORS]) does not satisfy the requirement for reporting to NFIRS).

National Incident Management System (NIMS) Implementation

AFG applicants are not required to be in compliance with NIMS to apply for AFG funding or to receive an AFG award. Any applicant who receives an FY 2019 AFG 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

Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 2229(k)(3), an applicant seeking an AFG grant shall agree to maintain, during the term of the grant, the applicant's aggregate expenditures relating to activities allowable under this NOFO, at not less than 80 percent of the average amount of such expenditures in the two fiscal years prior to the fiscal year an AFG grant is awarded.

In other words, an applicant agrees that, if it receives a grant award, the applicant agrees to keep its overall expenditures during the award's period of performance (including those funded with non-Federal funding) for activities that could be allowable costs under this AFG NOFO at a level that is at least 80 percent or more of the average of what the applicant spent on such costs for those activities in fiscal years 17 and 18.

Cost Share or Match

Recipient cost sharing is generally required as described below and pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 2229(k)(1). In general, eligible applicants shall agree to make available non-federal funds to carry out an AFG award in an amount equal to and not less than 15 percent of the grant awarded. Exceptions to this general requirement apply to entities serving smaller communities as follows:

- When serving a jurisdiction of 20,000 residents or fewer, the applicant shall agree to make available non-federal funds in an amount equal to not less than 5 percent

of the grant awarded;

- When serving a jurisdiction of more than 20,000 residents, but not more than 1 million residents, the applicant shall agree to make available non-federal funds in an amount equal to not less than 10 percent of the grant awarded;
- When serving a jurisdiction of more than 1 million residents, the applicant shall agree to make available non-federal funds in an amount equal to not less than 15 percent of the grant awarded.

The cost share for SFTAs will apply the requirements above based on the total population of the state. The cost share for a Regional application will apply the requirements above based on the aggregate population of the primary first due response areas of the Host and participating partner organizations that execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as described in Appendix B, Section J, Regional projects.

FEMA has developed a cost share calculator tool in order to assist applicants with determining their cost share. The cost share tool is available at:
<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/153366>

Types of Cost Share

- Cash (Hard Match):** Cost share of non-federal cash is the only allowable recipient contribution for AFG activity (Vehicle Acquisition, Operations and Safety, and Regional).
- Trade-In Allowance/Credit:** On a case-by-case basis, FEMA may allow recipients already owning assets acquired with non-federal cash, to use the trade-in allowance/credit value of those assets as cash for the purpose of meeting their cost share obligation. For FEMA to consider a trade-in allowance/credit value as cash, the allowance amount must be reasonable, and the allowance amount must be a separate entry clearly identified in the acquisition documents.
- In-kind (Soft Match):** In-kind cost share is not allowable for AFG.

The award budget will not account for any voluntary committed cost sharing or overmatch. The use of an overmatch is not given additional consideration when scoring applications.

Economic Hardship Waivers

The Administrator of FEMA may waive or reduce recipient cost share or maintenance of effort requirements in cases of demonstrated economic hardship. Please see Appendix C: Award Administration Information for additional information.

D. Application and Submission Information

Key Dates and Times

Date Posted to Grants.gov:
Application Start Date:

January 27, 2020
February 3, 2020 at 8:00 AM ET

Application Submission Deadline: March 13, 2020 at 5:00 PM ET
Anticipated Funding Selection Date: April 30, 2020
Anticipated Award Date: April 30, 2020

In general, DHS/FEMA will not review applications received after the deadline or consider them for funding. DHS/FEMA may, however, extend the application deadline on request for any applicant who can demonstrate that good cause exists to justify extending the deadline. Good cause for an extension may include technical problems outside of the applicant's control that prevent submission of the application by the deadline, or other exigent or emergency circumstances. If applicants experience technical issues, they must notify the AFG Help Desk as soon as possible. The AFG Help Desk can be reached at 1-866-274-0960 or by e-mail: firegrants@fema.dhs.gov. The AFG Help Desk is open Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm Eastern Time.

Other Key Dates

Event	Suggested Deadline for Completion
Obtaining DUNS Number	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Obtaining a valid EIN	Eight weeks before actual submission deadline
Updating SAM registration	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Register Organization in FEMA GO	Prior to beginning application
Submitting complete application in FEMA GO	One week before actual submission deadline

Agreeing to Terms and Conditions of the Award

By submitting an application, the applicant agrees to comply with the requirements of this NOFO and the terms and conditions of its award, should the applicant receive an award.

Address to Request Application Package

The online FY 2019 AFG application is only available via the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program's FEMA GO (FEMA Grants Outcomes) application portal, at <https://go.fema.gov>.

Note: Hard copies of the application are not available. However, the Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) and/or Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) number available for this Notice is: (800) 462-7585.

FEMA will process applications through FEMA GO. Application tutorials and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) explain the current AFG grant program, assist with the online grant application, and highlight lessons learned and changes for FY 2019. For more details, please visit the AFGP website at <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants>.

Content and Form of Application Submission

DHS makes all funding opportunities available on the internet, accessible at <http://www.grants.gov>. If applicants experience difficulties accessing information or have any questions, please call the Grants.gov Contact Center at (800) 518-4726.

The Grants.gov website will direct applicants to FEMA GO, at <https://go.fema.gov>, which contains the online AFG application. The online AFG application incorporates all required forms.

FEMA GO will allow the applicant's authorized representative(s) to log in and create their own account. This account is specific to the authorized user and must not be shared with other personnel. The FEMA GO account is separate from any previous accounts created in the eGrants system. Applicants can save, retrieve, update and revise their work through the end of the application period. The automated system does not allow applicants to submit incomplete applications. The system alerts applicants when required information has not been entered. Prior to final submission, an online application may be saved, retrieved, or edited up to the application deadline.

Technological Note: FEMA GO is compatible with Internet Explorer (version 11 or higher), Firefox (version 63 or higher), or Chrome (version 70 or higher). Users who attempt to use tablet type devices or other browsers may encounter issues with using FEMA GO.

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE RELEASED BACK TO THE APPLICANT AFTER FINAL SUBMISSION

After an application has been completed and submitted, no changes can be made. There is no appeal process for inaccurate or incomplete information retained by the system due to improper or multiple browser usage by applicants.

Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

All applicants for this award must:

- 1. Be registered and active in SAM in order to apply;*
- 2. Provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and*
- 3. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a DHS FAO.*

DHS/FEMA may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time DHS/FEMA is ready to make a federal award, DHS/FEMA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making the federal award to another

applicant.

Electronic Delivery

DHS is participating in the Grants.gov initiative that provides the grant communities a single site to find grant funding opportunities. Before applying for a DHS Grant, applicants must have a Data Universal Number System, or DUNS number, and must be registered and active in SAM.

DUNS Number

All entities applying for funding, including renewal funding, must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). Applicants must enter the DUNS number in the data entry field labeled "Organizational DUNS" on the SF-424 form. Instructions for obtaining a DUNS number can be found at the following website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-1-obtain-duns-number.html>.

System for Award Management (SAM)

Applicant registration in SAM is free. All applicants must be registered and active in order to apply online. Step-by-step instructions for registering with SAM can be found here: SAM Registration Home Page. Please remember that SAM registration is only active for one year and must be renewed annually.

Existing SAM.gov account holders should check their account to make sure it is "ACTIVE." SAM registration should be completed at the very beginning of the application period and renewed annually to avoid becoming "INACTIVE."

Please allow plenty of time before the grant application submission deadline to obtain a DUNS number and then to register in SAM. It may take four weeks or more after the applicant submits the SAM registration before the registration is active in SAM, then an additional 24 hours for Grants.gov to recognize the information.

FEMA may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time DHS is ready to make a federal award. DHS may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

IMPORTANT: The SAM registration process must be completed by the applicant. It is imperative that the information provided by the applicant is correct and current. Please ensure that your organization's name, address, DUNS number, and Employer Identification Number, or EIN, are up to date in SAM and that the DUNS number used in SAM is the same one used to apply for all other FEMA awards. The organization's name on the SF 1199A Direct Deposit Form must be entered as it appears in SAM. Payment under any FEMA award is contingent on the recipient's having a current SAM registration.

Help with SAM

The SAM quick start guide for new recipient registration and SAM video tutorial for new applicants are tools created by the General Services Administration (GSA) to assist those registering with SAM. If applicants have questions or concerns about a SAM registration, please contact the Federal Support Desk at <https://www.fsd.gov/fsd-gov/home.do> or call toll free (866) 606-8220.

How to Get a Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code

To get a CAGE code, applicants must first be registered in SAM, which is a requirement for doing business with the Federal Government. Applicants will be assigned a CAGE code as part of the SAM validation process, and as soon as the registration is active, applicants may view the CAGE code online by logging in to the SAM account.

Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission

All applications must be received by March 13, 2020 at 5 p.m. Eastern Time. FEMA GO automatically records proof of timely submission and the system generates an electronic date/time stamp when FEMA GO successfully receives the application. The individual with the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) role that submitted the application will also receive the official date/time stamp and a FEMA GO tracking number in an email serving as proof of their timely submission on the date and time that FEMA GO received the application. Applications received by FEMA GO after the established due date for applications will be considered late and will not be considered for funding.

Applicants using slow internet connections, such as dial-up connections, should be aware that transmission can take some time before FEMA GO receives your application. FEMA GO will provide either an error message or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email sent to the AOR that submitted the application. The FEMA GO Support Center reports that some applicants end the transmission because they think that nothing is occurring during the transmission process. Do not do this – it may cause your application to fail to be submitted and consequently not be considered for funding. Please be patient and give the system time to process the application.

Intergovernmental Review

An intergovernmental review may be required. Applicants must contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the State's process under Executive Order 12372 (see <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/12372.html>; <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SPOC-February-2019.pdf>).

Funding Restrictions

Federal funds made available through this award may only be used for the purposes set forth in this award and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Award funds may not be used for matching funds for any other federal grants/cooperative agreements, lobbying, or intervention in federal regulatory or

adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, federal funds may not be used to sue the Federal Government or any other government entity. Failure to adhere to the award conditions will cause the recipient to be considered in default of the grant agreement and may require the return of all federal funds disbursed under the grant.

Federal employees are prohibited from serving in any capacity (paid or unpaid) on the development of any proposal submitted under this program.

Construction

Construction costs are *not eligible* under the AFG grants. Construction includes major alterations to a building that changes the profile or footprint of the structure. Modifications to facilities activities described in Appendix A Funding Priorities, are not considered construction costs and may be eligible.

Pre-award Costs

Generally, grant funds cannot be used to pay for products and services contracted for or obligated prior to the effective date of the award. Fees for grant writers are considered an exception and may be included as a pre-award expenditure. Further, other costs incurred after the application deadline, but prior to an offer of award, may be eligible for reimbursement only if the following conditions are met:

- The recipient must submit a written request to FEMA to incur such pre-award costs by providing notification (containing the application number and a justification narrative) to FEMA via email to the AFG Help Desk at FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov. The notification to FEMA should be concurrent with the recipient's acquisition activity and must be submitted prior to the effective date of the award.
- The recipient must receive confirmation from FEMA that the expenses have been reviewed and that FEMA has determined the costs to be justified, unavoidable, and consistent with the grant's scope of work.

Fire Departments and Nonaffiliated EMS organizations

The total amount of funding a fire department or nonaffiliated EMS organization recipient may receive under an AFG award is limited to maximum amounts set by §33(c)(2) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, as amended (15 U.S.C. § 2229(c)(2)). These award limits are based on two factors: population served and a one percent aggregate amount of available grant funds.

The population of the jurisdiction served by the recipient will determine the maximum amount of AFG funding a recipient is eligible to receive but no recipient may receive an award that exceeds one (1) percent of available grant funds in FY 2019, or \$3,500,000. FEMA may waive this aggregate cap of \$3.5 million in individual cases where FEMA determines that a recipient has an extraordinary need for a grant that exceeds the aggregate cap. FEMA may not waive the statutory funding caps based on population se

The following table explains the maximum funding that a recipient may receive in FY

2019:

Population of jurisdiction served by the recipient	Maximum award in FY 2019	Statutory waiver available subject to extraordinary need?
100,000 or fewer people	No more than \$1 million	None available
100,001 – 500,000 people	No more than \$2 million	None available
500,001 – 1,000,000 people	No more than \$3 million	None available
1,000,001 – 2,500,000 people	No more than \$3.5 million	Yes, but no more than \$6 million
More than 2,500,000 people	No more than \$3.5 million	Yes, but no more than \$9 million

Regional applicants will be subject to the funding limitations based on the total population served by the host and participating partners. Additionally, Regional grants awarded are included in the host organization's funding limitations. For example: if a recipient serves a population of 100,000 or fewer and is the recipient of a Regional award for \$1 million, they have met their cap and are no longer eligible for additional funds through the Operations & Safety or Vehicle activity.

Allocations and Restrictions of Available Grant Funds by Organization Type

- **Nonaffiliated EMS Organizations:** Not more than 2 percent of available grant funds shall be collectively awarded to all nonaffiliated EMS organization recipients.
- **Emergency Medical Services Providers:** Not less than 3.5 percent of available grant funds shall fund emergency medical services provided by fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations.
- **State Fire Training Academy:** Not more than 3 percent of available grant funds shall be collectively awarded to all State Fire Training Academy recipients. Further, not more than \$500,000 of available grant funds are eligible per applicant.
- **Vehicles:** Not more than 25 percent of available grant funds may be used by recipients for the purchase of vehicles. Of that amount, based on stakeholder recommendations, FEMA intends to allocate 10 percent of the total vehicle funds for ambulances.
- **Micro Grants:** The selection of the voluntary Micro Grant option (cumulative federal funding of \$50,000) for eligible Operations and Safety activities does not impact an applicant's request or federal participation under the Vehicle Acquisition or Regional projects. Applicants who select Micro Grants under Operations and Safety as a funding opportunity choice may still apply for a Vehicle(s) Acquisition or Regional project.

Management and Administration (M&A) Costs

Management and administrative expenses should be based only on actual expenses or known contractual costs; requests that are simple percentages of the award, without supporting justification, will not be allowed or considered for reimbursement. No more than 3 percent of the federal share of AFG funds awarded may be expended by the recipient for management and administration (M&A) for purposes associated with the AFG award.

Indirect Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Costs

Indirect costs are allowable under this program as described in 2 C.F.R. pt. 200, including 2 C.F.R. § 200.414. Applicants with a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement that desire to charge indirect costs to an award must provide a copy of their negotiated indirect cost rate agreement at the time of application. Applicants that are not required by 2 C.F.R. pt. 200 to have a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement but are required by 2 C.F.R. pt. 200 to develop an indirect cost rate proposal must provide a copy of their proposal at the time of application. Copies of the indirect cost rate agreements or proposals, along with the AFG application number, must be submitted electronically to FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov. Post-award requests to charge indirect costs will be considered on a case-by-case basis and based upon the submission of an agreement or proposal as discussed above.

Environmental and Historical Preservation (EHP)

As a federal agency, DHS/FEMA is required to consider the effects of its actions on the environment and historic properties to ensure that all activities and programs funded by the agency, including grant-funded projects, comply with Federal EHP regulations, laws, and Executive Orders as applicable.

Recipients proposing projects that have the potential to impact the environment, including but not limited to modification or renovation of existing buildings, structures, and facilities, must participate in the DHS/FEMA EHP review process. The EHP review process involves the submission of a screening form that includes a detailed project description that explains the goals and objectives of the proposed project along with supporting documentation, so that DHS/FEMA may determine whether the proposed project has the potential to impact environmental resources and/or historic properties. In some cases, DHS/FEMA may also be required to consult with other regulatory agencies and the public in order to complete the review process. The EHP review process must be completed before funds are released to carry out the proposed project. DHS/FEMA will not fund projects that are initiated without the required EHP Review.

Applicants will be notified via email if EHP review is required and will be provided instructions on how to comply.

Additionally, all recipients are required to comply with FEMA EHP Policy Guidance. EHP Policy Guidance can be found in FP 108-023-1, Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Policy Guidance.

All modifications to Facility activities, and any renovation to facilities that would qualify as a modification to facilities supporting activities under Training, Equipment, PPE, or Wellness and Fitness, will require an EHP review. Some Equipment activities will require an EHP review as well. Such activities include but are not limited to the installation of:

- Air compressor/fill station/cascade system (fixed) for filling SCBA
- Air quality systems
- Fire/smoke/carbon monoxide alarm systems for the facility (life safety)
- Generators (fixed)
- Sprinklers
- Vehicle exhaust systems (fixed)
- Washer/dryer/extractor

The following activities would not require the submission of the FEMA EHP Screening Form:

- Planning and development of policies or processes
- Management, administrative or personnel actions
- Classroom-based training
- Acquisition of mobile and portable equipment (not involving installation) on or in a building

E. Application Review Information

Funding priorities and criteria for evaluating AFG applications are established by FEMA based on the recommendations from the Criteria Development Panel (CDP). Each year, FEMA convenes a panel of fire service professionals to develop funding priorities for the AFG grant program. The panel makes recommendations about funding priorities as well as developing criteria for awarding grants.

The **nine major fire service organizations** represented on the panel are:

- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- National Volunteer Fire Council
- National Fire Protection Association
- National Association of State Fire Marshals
- International Association of Arson Investigators
- International Society of Fire Service Instructors
- North American Fire Training Directors

- Congressional Fire Service Institute

The CDP is charged with making recommendations to FEMA regarding the creation or modification of previously established funding priorities as well as developing criteria for awarding grants. The content of this NOFO reflects implementation of the CDP's recommendations with respect to the priorities, direction, and criteria for awards.

FEMA will rank all complete and submitted applications based on how well they match the program priorities for the type of jurisdiction(s) served. Answers to the application's activity specific questions provide information used to determine each application's ranking relative to the stated program priorities.

Application Evaluation Criteria

Prior to making a federal award, the federal-awarding agency is required by 31 U.S.C. § 3321 note, 41 U.S.C. § 2313, and 2 C.F.R. § 200.205 to review information available through any OMB- designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information. Therefore, application evaluation criteria may include the following risk based considerations of the applicant: (1) financial stability; (2) quality of management systems and ability to meet management standards; (3) history of performance in managing federal award (s); (4) reports and findings from audits; and (5) ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

All investments selected for recommendation will also undergo an additional risk review conducted by the DHS/FEMA Grants Management Specialist to evaluate the risk for noncompliance in carrying out the federal award. Using their subject matter expertise, the questions the DHS/FEMA Grants Management Specialist may assess include, but are not limited to:

- Is the applicant on any exclusion lists as identified in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov)?
- If the applicant has received federal funding in the past, has the applicant performed all audits required by the Single Audit requirements under 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F?
- Has the applicant provided sufficient budget information and justification as required by the NOFO?
- Are the costs proposed by the applicant in the budget information and justification allowable and reasonable based on the criteria set forth in this Manual and the applicable appendix, NOFO, and regulations?
- Is the budget representative of the total cost of performance of the projects?
- If indirect costs are included, has the applicant provided an approved Indirect Cost Rate agreement?
- Is the applicant delinquent on any federal debt?
- Has the applicant had substandard performance in a prior award?
- Is the applicant on the Do Not Pay List?

Based on the outcome of this review, DHS/FEMA may determine that it will not make an award to an applicant that poses a risk of noncompliance. DHS/FEMA may also determine that it will make an award to an at-risk applicant, subject to additional terms and conditions as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.207.

Supplemental Financial Integrity Review

Prior to making a federal award where the anticipated federal share of a federal award will be greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, currently \$250,000 (see Section 805 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-91, OMB Memorandum M-18-18 at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/M-18-18.pdf>; see also FEMA Information Bulletin No. 434, *Increases and Changes to the Micro-Purchase and Simplified Acquisition Thresholds*):

- DHS/FEMA is required to review and consider any information about the applicant in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through the System for Award Management (SAM), which is currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) and is also accessible through the SAM website.
- An applicant, at its option, may review information in FAPIIS and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered.
- DHS/FEMA will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants, as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.205.

Review and Selection Process

AFG applications are reviewed through a multi-phase process. All applications are electronically pre-scored and ranked based on how well they align with the funding priorities outlined in this NOFO.

Applications with the highest pre-score rankings are then scored competitively by (no less than three) members of a Peer Reviewer 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). Below is the process by which applications will be reviewed:

i. Pre-Scoring Process

The application undergoes an electronic pre-scoring process based on established program priorities listed in Appendix B and answers to activity specific questions within the online application. Application Narratives are not reviewed during pre-score process. "Request Details" and "Budget" information

should comply with program guidance and statutory funding limitations. The pre-score is 50 percent of the total application score.

ii. Peer Review Panel Process

Applications with the highest rankings from the pre-score process will undergo a peer review process. A panel of peer reviewers is comprised of fire service representatives recommended by the national organizations from the CDP. Peer reviewers will assess each application's merits based on the narrative statement on the requested activity. The evaluation elements listed in the "Narrative Evaluation Criteria" below will be used to calculate the narrative's score for each activity requested. Panelists will independently score each requested activity within the application, discuss the merits and/or shortcomings of the application with his or her peers, and document the findings. A consensus is not required. The panel score is 50 percent of the total application score.

iii. Technical Evaluation Process (TEP)

The highest ranked applications will be considered within the fundable range. Applications that are in the fundable range will undergo both a Technical Review by a Subject-Matter Expert (SME) as well as a FEMA Program Office review prior to being recommended for award. The FEMA Program Office will assess the request with respect to costs, quantities, feasibility, eligibility, and recipient responsibility prior to recommending any application for award.

Once the TEP is complete, each application's cumulative score will be determined and a final ranking of applications will be created. FEMA will award grants based on this final ranking and the ability to meet statutorily required funding limitations outlined in Appendix B, V. Restrictions on Use of Award Funds.

Narrative Evaluation Criteria

1. Financial Need (25 percent)

Applicants should describe their financial need and how consistent it is with the intent of the AFG Program. The Financial Need statement should include details describing the applicant's financial distress such as summarizing budget constraints, unsuccessful attempts to secure other funding, and proving the financial distress is out of their control.

2. Project Description and Budget (25 percent)

The Project Description and Budget statement should clearly explain the applicant's project objectives and its relationship to the applicant's budget and risk analysis. The applicant should describe various activities, including program priorities or facility modifications, ensuring consistency with project objectives, the applicant's mission and national, state, and/or local requirements. Applicants should link the proposed expenses to operations and safety, as well as to the completion of the project's goals.

3. Cost Benefit(25 percent)

Applicants should describe how they plan to address the operations and personal safety needs of their organization, including cost effectiveness and sharing assets. The Operations and Safety/Cost Benefit statement should also include details about gaining the maximum benefits from grant funding by citing reasonable or required costs, such as specific overhead and administrative costs. The applicant's request should also be consistent with their mission and identify how funding will benefit their organization and affected personnel.

4. Statement of Effect on Operations(25 percent)

The Statement of Effect on Operations statement should explain how this funding request will enhance an organization's overall effectiveness. It should address how an award will improve daily operations and reduce an organization's risk(s). Applicants should include how frequently the requested item(s) will be used and in what capacity. Applicants should also indicate how the requested item(s) will help the community and increase an organization's ability to save additional lives and property. Jurisdictions that demonstrate their commitment and proactive posture to reducing fire risk, by explaining their code enforcement (to include Wildland Urban Interface code enforcement) and mitigation strategies (including whether or not the jurisdiction has a FEMA-approved mitigation strategy) may receive stronger consideration under this criterion.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

Notice of Award

Once FEMA has approved and recorded an award in the system, FEMA GO sends an award package to the grant official authorized by the recipient. FEMA GO will provide the award package and email notification. The authorized grant official should follow the directions in the notification to accept the award documents. The authorized grant official should read the award package carefully for instructions on administering the grant, to determine whether there has been an adjustment to the award, and to become familiar with the terms, conditions and responsibilities of federal award recipients.

The offered award will remain on hold and be available for a maximum of 30 days until the recipient either accepts or declines the award via FEMA GO online or unless FEMA grants additional time to accept the award. The recipient should follow the directions in the notification to confirm acceptance of the award. Failure to accept the grant award within 30 days of an offer of award may result in a loss of funds. Recipients may request additional time to accept the award if needed.

Differences Between Application Request and Award

During the review process for an AFG award, FEMA may have modified the application request(s). These modifications will be identified in the award package provided upon the offer of an award. If the awarded activities, scope of work, or requested dollar amount(s) do not match the application as submitted, the recipient shall only be

responsible for completing the activities actually funded by FEMA. The recipient is under no obligation to start, modify, or complete any activities requested by but not funded by the award. The award package will identify any differences under the Approved scope of work section.

Turndown Notifications

FEMA GO will provide all applicants who do not receive an FY 2019 AFG award with a turndown notification.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

All successful applicants for all DHS grant and cooperative agreements are required to comply with DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, which are available online at: DHS Standard Terms and Conditions. The applicable DHS Standard Terms and Conditions will be those in effect at the time in which the award was made.

Before accepting the award, the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) should carefully read the award package for instructions on administering the grant award and the terms and conditions associated with responsibilities under Federal Awards. Recipients must accept all conditions in this NOFO as well as any special terms and conditions in the Notice of Award to receive an award under this program. By submitting an application, applicants are deemed to have accepted all of the conditions in this NOFO as well.

Reporting

Recipients are required to submit various financial and programmatic reports as a condition of their award acceptance. Future awards and funds drawdown may be withheld if these reports are delinquent. Recipients should keep detailed records of all transactions involving the grant. FEMA may at any time request copies of purchasing documentation along with copies of cancelled checks or other proof of payment documentation for verification.

Record Retention

Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other non-Federal entity records pertinent to a Federal award must be retained for at least three years from the date the final FFR is submitted or longer if the award or entity is under audit or other circumstances necessitate longer retention of records. See, e.g., 2 C.F.R. § 200.333. If the recipient does not submit a final FFR and the award is administratively closed, FEMA uses the date of administrative closeout as the start of the three-year retention period.

FEMA requires that recipients maintain the following documentation for federally funded purchases:

- Specifications
- Solicitations

- Competitive quotes or proposals
- Basis for selection decisions
- Purchase orders
- Contracts
- Invoices
- Cancelled checks

Recipients should keep detailed records of all transactions involving the grant. FEMA may at any time request copies of purchasing documentation along with copies of cancelled checks for verification. See, e.g., 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.318(i), 200.333, 200.336.

Recipients who fail to fully document all purchases may find their expenditures questioned and subsequently disallowed.

Federal Financial Reporting Requirements

Federal Financial Reports (FFR)

Recipients of AFG grants are required to submit a Federal Financial Report (SF-425) on a semi-annual basis. The FFR is to be submitted using the online FEMA GO based on the calendar year beginning with the period after the award is made. Grant recipients are required to submit an FFR throughout the entire period of performance of the grant.

Reports are due:

- No later than July 30 (for the period January 1 – June 30)
- No later than January 30 (for the period July 1 – December 31)
- Within 90 days after the end of the Period of Performance

The Federal Financial Report Form (SF-425) and instructions are available at the following sites: SF-425 OMB #4040-0014.

Financial and Compliance Audit Report

For audits of fiscal years beginning on or after December 26, 2014, recipients that expend \$750,000 or more from all federal funding sources during their fiscal year are required to submit an organization-wide financial and compliance audit report. The audit must be performed in accordance with the requirements of GAO's Government Auditing Standards, located at <http://www.gao.gov/govaud/ybk01.htm>, and the requirements of Subpart F of 2 C.F.R. Part 200, located at: <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=6f12725a5b5811eb8f2ed19f6dde0417&mc=true&node=pt2.1.200&rgn=div5>.

Program Performance Reporting Requirements

The recipient is responsible for completing and submitting a Programmatic Performance Report (PPR) using FEMA GO. The programmatic Performance Report is due every six months after the grant's award date, and thereafter until the period of performance ends.

The PPR should include the following:

- A brief narrative of overall project(s) status
- A summary of project expenditures
- A description of any potential issues that may affect project completion

Program Performance Reporting Periods and Due Dates

The following reporting periods and due dates apply for the PPR:

- **No later than July 30** (for the period January 1 – June 30)
- **No later than January 30** (for the period July 1 – December 31)

Monitoring

Grant recipients will be monitored periodically by FEMA staff, both programmatically and financially, to ensure that the project goals, objectives, performance requirements, timelines, milestones, budgets, and other related program criteria are being met. Monitoring may be accomplished through either a desk-based review or on-site monitoring visits, or both. Monitoring will involve the review and analysis of the financial, programmatic, performance, compliance, and administrative processes and policies, activities, and other attributes of each federal assistance award and will identify areas where technical assistance, corrective actions, and other support may be needed. Recipients should keep detailed records of all transactions involving the grant. FEMA may at any time request copies of purchasing documentation along with copies of cancelled checks or other adequate payment documentation for verification. Recipients have the opportunity to participate in a Post Award Orientation (PAO) offered by the FEMA Regional Fire Program Specialist (FPS) to have their questions answered, receive technical assistance, or to review the terms and conditions of the grant. The PAO is optional.

Closeout

Within 90 days after the end of the period of performance, recipients must submit a final Federal Financial Report Form (SF-425) and a final performance report (within the closeout module in FEMA GO) detailing all accomplishments and a qualitative summary of the impact of those accomplishments throughout the period of performance. The closeout tutorial may be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/closeout-report-tutorial-introduction>.

In addition, any recipient that issues subawards to any subrecipient is responsible for closing out those subawards as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.343. Recipients must ensure that they complete the closeout of their subawards in time to submit all necessary documentation and information to DHS/FEMA during the closeout of their prime grant award.

After the final SF-425 and final performance reports have been reviewed and approved by FEMA, a Closeout Notice will be completed to close out the grant. The notice will indicate the period of performance as closed, list any remaining funds that will be

deobligated, and address the requirement of maintaining the grant records for a minimum of three years from the date of the final Federal Financial Report Form (SF-425). The recipient is responsible for returning any federal funds that they have liquidated but remain unobligated by the recipient. Information on how to return funds to FEMA is available at:

<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/31261?id=7080>.

Administrative Closeout

Administrative closeout is a unilateral mechanism for FEMA to move forward with closeout of a grant award using available grant award information in lieu of final reports from the recipient. It is a last resort and recipients should always submit their final reports instead of relying on this mechanism. This mechanism can also require FEMA to make cash or cost adjustments and ineligible cost determinations based on the information it has, which may result in identifying a debt owed to FEMA by the recipient.

FEMA may use the administrative closeout process when a recipient is not responsive to FEMA's reasonable efforts to collect required reports needed to complete the standard closeout process. FEMA will make three written attempts to collect required reports before initiating administrative closeout.

If FEMA administratively closes an award where no final FFR has been submitted, FEMA uses that administrative closeout date in lieu of the final FFR submission date as the start of the three-year record retention period under 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.

In addition, if an award is administratively closed, FEMA may decide to impose remedies for noncompliance per 2 C.F.R. § 200.338, consider this information in reviewing future award applications, or apply special conditions to existing or future awards.

Disclosing Information per 2 C.F.R. § 180.335

This reporting requirement pertains to disclosing information related to government-wide suspension and debarment requirements. Before a recipient enters into a grant award with FEMA, the recipient must notify FEMA if it knows if it or any of the recipient's principals under the award fall under one or more of the four criteria listed at 2 C.F.R. § 180.335:

- Are presently excluded or disqualified;
- Have been convicted within the preceding three years of any of the offenses listed in 2 C.F.R. § 180.800(a) or had a civil judgment rendered against it or any of the recipient's principals for one of those offenses within that time period;
- Are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state or local) with commission of any of the offenses listed in 2 C.F.R. § 180.800(a); or

- Have had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated within the preceding three years for cause or default.

At any time after accepting the award, if the recipient learns that it or any of its principals falls under one or more of the criteria listed at 2 C.F.R. § 180.335, the recipient must provide immediate written notice to FEMA in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 180.350.

G. DHS Awarding Agency Contact Information Contact and Resource Information

AFG Help Desk

The AFG Help Desk provides technical assistance to applicants for the online completion and submission of applications into FEMA GO, answers questions concerning applicant eligibility and recipient responsibilities, and helps in the programmatic administration of awards. The AFG Help Desk can be contacted at (866) 274-0960 or by email at FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov. Normal hours of operation are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. All times listed are Eastern Time.

FEMA Regional Fire Program Specialists

Each FEMA region has Fire Program Specialists who can assist applicants with application information, award administration, and technical assistance. Contact information for a Regional Fire Program Specialist can be located on the AFG website at <https://www.fema.gov/fire-grant-contact-information>.

FEMA GO System Information

For technical assistance with FEMA GO, please contact the Enterprise Service Desk at (877) 611-4700. Regular hours of operation are also from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.

H. Additional Information

Extensions to the Grant Period of Performance

Extensions to the period of performance under this grant program are allowed. An award's period of performance must be active for a recipient to submit a proposed extension request to FEMA. Recipients should request extensions sparingly and only under exceptional circumstances. ***Approval is not guaranteed.***

Extensions to the initial period of performance identified in the award will only be considered through formal amendment requests, via FEMA GO, and must contain specific and compelling justifications as to why an extension is required.

All extension requests must contain:

- Grant Program, fiscal year, and award number
- Reason for delay—this must include details of the legal, policy, or operational challenges being experienced that prevent the final outlay of awarded funds by the

- applicable deadline
- Current status of the activity/activities
- Approved period of performance termination date and new project completion date
- Amount of funds drawn down to date
- Remaining available funds, both federal and non-federal
- Budget outlining how remaining federal and non-federal funds will be expended
- Plan for completion, including milestones and timeframes for achieving each milestone and the position/person responsible for implementing the plan for completion
- Certification that the activity/activities will be completed within the extended period of performance without any modification to the original Statement of Work approved by FEMA

Requirements for Extension Consideration

To be eligible for consideration, recipients must submit extension requests via FEMA GO. Recipients generally can submit requests no later than 60 days prior to the end of the award's period of performance. In accordance with FEMA policy, FEMA reviews extensions on a case-by-case basis and typically grants them for no more than a six-month period. FEMA will grant extension requests only due to compelling legal, policy, or operational challenges. The review process can take up to 30 days or longer. Applicants should factor this review period in to the timing of when to submit a request for an extension.

Example: Recipients may request an extension, for example, when an equipment order was placed during the period of performance but factors beyond the recipients' control have resulted in a delay in the expected delivery and receipt of the equipment outside of the existing period of performance; or where a specific statute or regulation mandates an environmental review that cannot be completed within this timeframe or where other extenuating circumstances warrant a brief extension.