

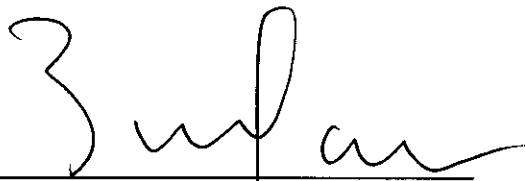
**ORDER: AUTHORIZE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
2024 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FROM FEMA**

Motion was made by Greg Bynum, duly seconded by Scott Allen, to authorize Fire Department to apply for the Fiscal Year 2024 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from FEMA.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Supervisor Brent Larson, voted yes  
Supervisor John Morgan, voted yes  
Supervisor Tim Gordon, voted yes  
Supervisor Scott Allen, voted yes  
Supervisor Greg Bynum, voted yes

After the vote, President Larson, declared the motion carried, this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024.



**Brent Larson, President  
Board of Supervisors**



**Mike Roberts, Chancery Clerk**

**The U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)  
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)  
Fiscal Year 2024 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program**

**All entities wishing to do business with the federal government must have a unique entity identifier (UEI). The UEI number is issued by the system. Requesting a UEI using System for Award Management (SAM.gov) can be found at: <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>.**

**Updates in Grant Application Forms:**

The Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number was replaced by a new, non-proprietary identifier requested in, and assigned by, SAM.gov. This new identifier is the Unique Entity Identifier.

Additional Information can be found on Grants.gov: <https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-development/planned-uei-updates>.

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**A. Program Description****1. Issued By**

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

**2. Assistance Listings Number**

97.044

**3. Assistance Listings Title**

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

**4. Funding Opportunity Title**

Fiscal Year 2024 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

**5. Funding Opportunity Number**

DHS-24-GPD-044-00-98

**6. 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)

**7. Appropriation Authority for Program**

Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024, Pub. L. No. 118-47, Title III, Protection, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Assistance (2024 DHS Appropriations Act)

**8. Announcement Type**

Initial

**9. Program Category**

Preparedness: Fire and Life Safety

**10. Program Overview, Objectives, and Priorities****a. Overview**

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 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's) focus on enhancing the safety of the firefighters and therefore the public with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The AFG Program provides financial assistance directly to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations, and State Fire Training Academies (SFTAs) for critical training and equipment. The AFG Program has awarded approximately \$8.7 billion in grant funding to provide critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. Since FY 2018, the AFG Program has awarded more than 800 fire apparatuses,

150,000 personal protective equipment items, and 126,000 other fire equipment to more than 7,000 unique recipients. During the same period, the AFG Program provided funding to 915 recipients to modify department facilities or implement wellness and fitness priorities to protect firefighter health. Information about success stories for this program can be found at [Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/assistance-to-firefighters-grants-program).

The AFG Program represents part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by DHS. In awarding grants, the FEMA Administrator is required to consider:

- 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 Program 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.

**b. Goals, Objectives, and Priorities**

Goal: Enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards.

Objectives: Provide critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, outfit responders with compliant personal protective equipment to increase responders' physical protection against hazards during incident response, provide funding to retrofit or modify facilities to protect personnel from known health hazards, acquire emergency response vehicles, design and implement health, wellness and resiliency programs that prepare responders for incident response, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.

Priorities: Information on program priorities and objectives for the FY 2024 AFG Program can be found in [Appendix B – Programmatic Information and Priorities](#).

**c. Alignment to Program Purpose and the DHS and FEMA Strategic Plan**

The AFG Program represents 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 Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2024](#), the AFG Program supports the goal to Strengthen Preparedness and Resilience.

The [2022-2026 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 directly supports Goal 3 to Promote and Sustain a Ready FEMA and



Prepared Nation. We invite all our stakeholders and partners to join us in building a more prepared and resilient nation.

## 11. Performance Measures

The grant recipient is required to collect data to allow FEMA to measure performance of the awarded grant in supporting AFG Program metrics, which are tied to the programmatic objectives and priorities. To measure performance, FEMA may request information throughout the period of performance. In its final performance report submitted at closeout, the recipient must submit sufficient information to demonstrate it has met the performance goal as stated in its award. FEMA will measure the recipient's performance of the grant by comparing the number of items, supplies, projects, and activities needed and requested in its application with the number acquired and delivered by the end of the period of performance using the following programmatic metrics:

- Percentage of AFG Program personal protective equipment (PPE) recipients who equipped 100% of on-duty active members with PPE in compliance with applicable NFPA and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.
- Percentage of AFG Program equipment recipients who reported that the grant award brought them into compliance with either state, local, NFPA or OSHA standards.
- Number of AFG Program grant recipients who reported having successfully replaced their fire vehicles in accordance with industry standards.
- Percentage of AFG Program training recipients who reported that the grant award allows their members to achieve firefighter training level I and firefighter training level II within one year of coming into service.
- Percentage of AFG Program wellness and fitness recipients who reported that the grant award allows their members to achieve minimum physical and/or mental operational readiness requirements through tailored health-related fitness programs.
- Percentage of AFG Program grant recipients for modifications to facilities projects who reported that the grant award brought them into compliance with either state, local, NFPA, or OSHA standards on housing and readiness posture.

Please see [Appendix B](#) for additional information on the criteria used to evaluate the program priorities.

### B. Federal Award Information

1. Available Funding for the NOFO:	\$291,600,000 <sup>1</sup>
2. Projected Number of Awards:	2,000

<sup>1</sup> Note that this figure differs from the total amount appropriated under the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024, Pub. L. No. 118-47, Title III, Protection, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery, Federal Emergency Management, Agency, Federal Assistance (2024 DHS Appropriations Act). In this FY 2024 AFG Program NOFO, percentages of "available grant funds" refers to the total amount appropriated—\$324,000,000—by Pub. L. No. 118-47 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 and Safety (FP&S) Program, which will have a separate NOFO and application period. \$32,400,000 will be allocated to FP&S for FY 2024.

3. Period of Performance: 24 months

Extensions to the period of performance are allowed. For additional information on period of performance extensions, please refer to Section H of this NOFO.

4. Projected Period of Performance Start Date(s): N/A<sup>2</sup>

5. Projected Period of Performance End Date(s): N/A

**6. Projected Budget Period**

There will be only a single budget period with the same start and end dates as the period of performance.

7. Funding Instrument Type: Grant

**C. Eligibility Information**

**1. 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,<sup>3</sup> 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.
- **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,<sup>3</sup> 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;

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<sup>2</sup> FEMA funds AFG Program awards on a rolling basis: as such, the date the FEMA Assistant Administrator for the Grant Programs Directorate signs the obligating document dictates the unique Period of Performance start and end dates for each award.

<sup>3</sup> 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 are all defined as "States" in the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974. See 15 U.S.C. § 2203(10).

- Medical centers;
  - Medical colleges or universities;
  - Infirmaries;
  - Surgery centers; and
  - 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 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.<sup>3</sup> 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 and recognized by the National Fire Academy. 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 SFTA applicant under the AFG Program.
  - **Non-federal airport and/or port authority fire or EMS organizations** are eligible only if they have a formally recognized arrangement with the local jurisdiction to provide fire suppression or emergency medical services on a first-due basis outside the confines of the airport or port facilities. Airport or port authority fire and EMS organizations whose sole responsibility is suppression of fires or EMS response on the airport grounds or port facilities are not eligible for funding under the AFG Program.

An application submitted by an otherwise eligible non-federal entity (i.e., the applicant) may be deemed ineligible when the person that submitted the application is not: ***1) a current employee, personnel, official, staff or leadership of the non-federal entity; and 2) duly authorized to apply for an award on behalf of the non-federal entity at the time of application.***

Further, the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) must be a duly authorized current employee, personnel, official, staff or leadership of the recipient and ***provide an email address unique to the recipient at the time of application and upon any change in assignment during the period of performance. Consultants or contractors of the recipient are not permitted to be the AOR of the recipient.***

## 2. Applicant Eligibility Criteria

The FY 2024 AFG Program has three activities:

- Operations and Safety;
- Vehicle Acquisition; and
- Regional Projects.

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

### 3. Subawards and Beneficiaries

#### a. *Subaward allowability*

Subawards are not allowed under the AFG Program.

#### b. *Beneficiaries or Participants*

This NOFO and any subsequent federal awards create no rights or causes of action for any participant or beneficiary.

### 4. Other Eligibility Criteria/Restrictions

#### a. *National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)*

Although NFIRS reporting is not a requirement to apply for AFG Program funding, fire departments that receive funding under this program must agree to provide information to the NFIRS for the period of performance 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 12-month period commencing as soon as possible after they develop the capacity to report. Capacity to report to NFIRS must be established prior to the end of the 24-month 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. § 200.339, 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.

#### b. *National Incident Management System (NIMS)*

AFG Program applicants are not required to comply with NIMS to apply for AFG Program funding or to receive an AFG Program award. However, any applicant who receives an FY 2024 AFG Program 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.

### 5. Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 2229(k)(3), an applicant seeking an AFG Program 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% of the average amount of such expenditures in the two fiscal years prior to the fiscal year an AFG Program grant is awarded.

In other words, an applicant agrees that if it receives a grant award, the applicant will keep its overall expenditures during the award's period of performance to at least 80% or more of the

average of what the applicant spent on such costs for those activities in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. This includes those funded with non-federal funding for activities that could be allowable costs under this NOFO.

#### 6. 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 Program award in an amount equal to not less than 15% of the federal funds 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% 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% of the grant awarded; or
- 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% 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 as described in Appendix B.g- Regional Applications.

FEMA has developed a cost share calculator tool to assist applicants with determining their cost share. The cost share tool is available on the FEMA website at Assistance to Firefighters Grants.

##### a. Types of Cost Share

- i. **Cash (Hard Match):** Cost share of non-federal cash is the only allowable recipient contribution for AFG Program activity (Vehicle Acquisition, Operations and Safety, and Regional).
- ii. **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.
- iii. **In-kind (Soft Match):** In-kind cost share is not allowable for the AFG Program.

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.

**b. *Economic Hardship Waivers***

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

**D. Application and Submission Information**

**1. Key Dates and Times**

- a. *Application Start Date:*** 11/12/2024 at 9 AM ET
- b. *Application Submission Deadline:*** 12/20/2024 at 5 PM ET

All applications **must** be received by the established deadline.

FEMA's Grants Outcomes System (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 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. For additional information on how an applicant will be notified of application receipt, see the subsection titled "Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission" in Section D of this NOFO.

**FEMA will not review applications that are received after the deadline or consider these late applications for funding.** 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, other exigent or emergency circumstances, or statutory requirements for FEMA to make an award.

**Applicants experiencing technical problems outside of their control must notify FEMA as soon as possible and before the application deadline.** Failure to timely notify FEMA of the issue that prevented the timely filing of the application may preclude consideration of the award. "Timely notification" of FEMA means the following: prior to the application deadline and within 48 hours after the applicant became aware of the issue.

A list of FEMA contacts can be found in Section G of this NOFO, "DHS Awarding Agency Contact Information." For technical assistance with the FEMA GO system, please contact the FEMA GO Helpdesk at [femago@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:femago@fema.dhs.gov) or (877) 585-3242, Monday through Friday, 9 AM – 6 PM Eastern Time (ET). For programmatic or grants management questions, please contact your Program Analyst or Grants Management Specialist. If applicants do not know who to contact or if there are programmatic questions or concerns, please contact the AFG Program Helpdesk at (866) 274-0960 or by e-mail at [FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov). The AFG Program Helpdesk is open Monday through Friday, 8 AM – 4:30 PM ET.

- c. *Anticipated Funding Selection Date:*** No later than April 30, 2025

**d. Anticipated Award Date:**

Beginning on approximately April 30, 2025 and continuing thereafter until all FY 2024 AFG Program grant awards are issued (but no later than September 30, 2025).

**e. Other Key Dates**

Event	Suggested Deadline for Completion
Obtaining Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Obtaining a valid Employer Identification Number (EIN)	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Creating an account with login.gov	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Registering in SAM or updating SAM registration	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Registering Organization in FEMA GO	Prior to beginning application
Submitting complete application in FEMA GO	One week before actual submission deadline

**2. Agreeing to Terms and Conditions of the Award**

By submitting an application, applicants agree to comply with the requirements of this NOFO and the terms and conditions of the award, should they receive an award.

**3. Address to Request Application Package**

Applications are processed through the FEMA GO system. To access the system, go to <https://go.fema.gov/>.

Hard copies of the NOFO can be downloaded at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) or obtained via email from the Awarding Office points of contact listed in **Section G** of this NOFO, "DHS Awarding Agency Contact Information" or by TTY (800) 462-7585.

**4. Requirements: Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and Register in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov)**

Each applicant, unless they have a valid exception under 2 CFR §25.110, must:

- Be registered in Sam.Gov before application submission.
- Provide a valid UEI in its application.
- Continue to always maintain an active SAM registration with current information during the federal award process. Note: Per 2 C.F.R. § 25.300, subrecipients are NOT required to go through the full SAM registration process. First-tier subrecipients (meaning entities receiving funds directly from the recipient) are only required to obtain a UEI through SAM, but they are not required to complete the full SAM registration in order to obtain a UEI. Recipients may not make subawards unless the subrecipient has obtained and provided the UEI.

Lower-tier subrecipients (meaning entities receiving funds passed through by a higher-tier subrecipient) are not required to have a UEI and are not required to register in SAM.

Applicants are also not permitted to require subrecipients to complete a full registration in SAM beyond obtaining the UEI.

#### **5. Steps Required to Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier, Register in the System for Award Management (SAM), and Submit an Application**

Applying for an award under this program is a multi-step process and requires time to complete. Applicants are encouraged to register early as the registration process can take four weeks or more to complete. Therefore, registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact your ability to meet required submission deadlines.

Please review the table above for estimated deadlines to complete each of the steps listed. Failure of an applicant to comply with any of the required steps before the deadline for submitting an application may disqualify that application from funding.

To apply for an award under this program, all applicants must:

- a. Apply for, update, or verify their UEI number and Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service;
- b. In the application, provide an UEI number;
- c. Have an account with [login.gov](https://login.gov);
- d. Register for, update, or verify their SAM account and ensure the account is active before submitting the application;
- e. Register in FEMA GO, add the organization to the system, and establish the AOR. The organization's electronic business point of contact (EBiz POC) from the SAM registration may need to be involved in this step. For step-by-step instructions, see <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go/startup>;
- f. Submit the complete application in FEMA GO; and
- g. 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 federal awarding agency. As part of this, applicants must also provide information on an applicant's immediate and highest-level owner and subsidiaries, as well as on all predecessors that have been awarded federal contracts or federal financial assistance within the last three years, if applicable.

Applicants are advised that FEMA may not make a federal award until the applicant has complied with all applicable SAM requirements. Therefore, an applicant's SAM registration must be active not only at the time of application, but also during the application review period and when FEMA is ready to make a federal award. Further, as noted above, an applicant's or recipient's SAM registration must remain active for the duration of an active federal award. If an applicant's SAM registration is expired at the time of application, expires during application review, or expires any other time before award, FEMA 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.

Per 2 C.F.R. § 25.110(c)(2)(iii), if an applicant is experiencing exigent circumstances that prevents it from obtaining an UEI number and completing SAM registration prior to



receiving a federal award, the applicant must notify FEMA as soon as possible by contacting [FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov) and providing the details of the circumstances that prevent completion of these requirements. If FEMA determines that there are exigent circumstances and FEMA has decided to make an award, the applicant will be required to obtain an UEI number, if applicable, and complete SAM registration within 30 days of the federal award date.

#### **6. Electronic Delivery**

DHS is participating in the Grants.gov initiative to provide the grant community with a single site to find and apply for grant funding opportunities. DHS encourages or requires applicants to submit their applications online through Grants.gov, depending on the funding opportunity.

For this funding opportunity, FEMA requires applicants to submit applications through FEMA GO.

#### **7. How to Register to Apply**

##### **a. General Instructions:**

Registering and applying for an award under this program is a multi-step process and requires time to complete. Read the instructions below about registering to apply for FEMA funds. Applicants should read the registration instructions carefully and prepare the information requested before beginning the registration process. Reviewing and assembling the required information before beginning the registration process will alleviate last-minute searches for required information.

**The registration process can take up to four weeks to complete.** To ensure an application meets the deadline, applicants are advised to start the required steps well in advance of their submission.

Organizations must have an UEI number, an EIN, and an active SAM registration to apply for a federal award under this funding opportunity.

##### **b. Obtain an UEI Number: 3**

All entities applying for funding, including renewal funding, must have a UEI number. Applicants must enter the UEI number in the applicable data entry field on the SF-424 form.

For more detailed instructions for obtaining a UEI number, refer to: [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov)

##### **c. Obtain Employer Identification Number**

All entities applying for funding must provide an Employer Identification Number (EIN). The EIN can be obtained from the IRS by visiting <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>.

##### **d. Create a login.gov account:**

Applicants must have a login.gov account in order to register with SAM or update their SAM registration. Applicants can create a login.gov account here: [https://secure.login.gov/sign\\_up/enter\\_email?request\\_id=34f19fa8-14a2-438c-8323-a62b99571fd3](https://secure.login.gov/sign_up/enter_email?request_id=34f19fa8-14a2-438c-8323-a62b99571fd3).

Applicants only have to create a login.gov account once. For applicants that are existing SAM users, use the same email address for the login.gov account as with SAM.gov so that the two accounts can be linked.

For more information on the login.gov requirements for SAM registration, refer to <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/loginFAQ.jsf>.

**e. Register with SAM:**

All applicants applying online through FEMA GO must register with SAM. Failure to register with SAM will prevent an applicant from completing the application in FEMA GO. SAM registration must be renewed annually. Organizations will be issued a UEI number with the completed SAM registration.

For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to <https://apply07.grants.gov/help/html/help/Register/RegisterWithSAM.htm>.

Note: Per 2 C.F.R. § 25.200, applicants must also provide the applicant's immediate and highest-level owner, subsidiaries, and predecessors that have been awarded federal contracts or federal financial assistance within the past three years, if applicable.

**I. ADDITIONAL SAM REMINDERS**

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 should be renewed annually to avoid being "INACTIVE." **Please allow plenty of time before the grant application submission deadline to obtain an UEI number and then to register in SAM. It may be four weeks or more after an applicant submits the SAM registration before the registration is active in SAM, and then it may be an additional 24 hours before FEMA's system recognizes the information.**

It is imperative that the information applicants provide is correct and current. Please ensure that your organization's name, address, and EIN are up to date in SAM and that the UEI number used in SAM is the same one used to apply for all other FEMA awards. Payment under any FEMA award is contingent on the recipient's having a current SAM registration.

**II. 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.

**f. Register in FEMA GO, Add the Organization to the System, and Establish the AOR:**

Applicants must register in FEMA GO and add their organization to the system. The organization's electronic business point of contact (EBiz POC) from the SAM registration may need to be involved in this step. For step-by-step instructions, see <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go/startup>.

Note: FEMA GO will support only the most recent major release of the following browsers:

- Google Chrome
- Internet Explorer
- Mozilla Firefox
- Apple Safari
- Microsoft Edge

Users who attempt to use tablet type devices or other browsers may encounter issues with using FEMA GO.

**8. Submitting the Application**

Applicants will be prompted to submit the standard application information and any program-specific information required as described in Section D.10 of this NOFO, "Content and Form of Application Submission." The Standard Forms (SF) may be accessed in the Forms tab under the <https://grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-family>. Applicants should review these forms before applying to ensure they have all the information required.

After submitting the final 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. 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.

For additional application submission requirements, including program-specific requirements, please refer to the subsection titled "Content and Form of Application Submission" under Section D of this NOFO.

**9. Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission**

All applications must be completed in FEMA GO by the application deadline. 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 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.

**Applicants who experience system-related issues will be addressed until 3:00 PM ET on the date applications are due.** No new system-related issues will be addressed after this deadline. Applications not received by the application submission deadline will not be accepted.

#### **10. Content and Form of Application Submission**

##### **a. *Standard Required Application Forms and Information***

The following forms or information are required to be submitted via FEMA GO. The Standard Forms (SF) are also available at <https://grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-family>

- **SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance**
- **Grants.gov Lobbying Form, Certification Regarding Lobbying**
- **SF-424A, Budget Information (Non-Construction)**
- **SF-424B, Standard Assurances (Non-Construction)**
- **SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**

##### **b. *Program-Specific Required Forms and Information***

Program-specific forms or information are required to be submitted in FEMA GO. For program-specific required and optional forms and information, please see the Appendices to this NOFO.

#### **11. Other Submission Requirements**

FEMA evaluates each application on its merit, veracity, and accuracy to ascertain how the narrative statement(s) outlined within the application depicts the applicant's and their community's uniqueness, their particular risks, and how selecting them over a similarly situated applicant advances the objectives of AFG to provide critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. At any time during application review process, including the technical review stage, FEMA may request additional documentation from applicants, including but not limited to:

- Copies of official or certified documents demonstrating the claimed financial need;
- Copies of the applicant's needs assessment report, survey, or any documented other efforts undertaken to identify the applicant's unique project objectives;
- Copies of the risk analysis conducted to ascertain how said project will address the applicant's unique needs in alignment with their mission and AFG grant purpose;
- Additional information or evidence detailing the applicant's particular risks; and
- Any other information deemed necessary to adequately weigh the applicant's assistance request for funding under this discretionary-competitive grant program. No applicant is guaranteed funding.

The narrative statement blocks do not allow for formatting. Do not type the narrative statements using only capital letters. Additionally, do not include tables, special characters, fonts (e.g., quotation marks, bullets), or graphs. Space for the narrative statements is limited. Although each element must have a minimum of 200 characters, the maximum number of characters varies based on the questions being asked.

## 12. Funding Restrictions and Allowable Costs

All costs charged to federal awards (including both federal funding and any non-federal matching or cost sharing funds) must comply with applicable statutes, rules and regulations, and policies, this NOFO, and the terms and conditions of the federal award. They must also comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements at 2 C.F.R. Part 200 unless otherwise indicated in the NOFO or the terms and conditions of the federal award. This includes, among other requirements, that costs must be incurred and products and services must be delivered within the budget period. 2 C.F.R. § 200.403(h). The following identifies a list of activities for which a recipient may not use federal funds and any cost sharing or matching funds under federal awards:

- Matching or cost sharing requirements for other federal grants and cooperative agreements (see 2 C.F.R. § 200.306)
- Lobbying or other prohibited activities under 18 U.S.C. § 1913 or 2 C.F.R. § 200.450
- Prosecuting claims against the federal government or any other government entity (see 2 C.F.R. § 200.435) See subsections below for information on any other funding restrictions.

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

### **a. Prohibitions on Expending FEMA Award Funds for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services**

Recipients, subrecipients, and their contractors must comply with the prohibitions set forth in Section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Pub. L. No. 115-232 (2018) (FY 2019 NDAA) and 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.216, 200.327, 200.471, and Appendix II to 2 C.F.R. Part 200. The FY 2019 NDAA and these regulations, as they apply to recipients, subrecipients, and their contractors and subcontractors, provide for two distinct prohibitions: (1) prevent the use of federal award funds to procure or obtain covered telecommunications equipment or services; and (2) prevent the use of federal award funds to contract with an entity that uses such covered telecommunications equipment or services. Guidance is available at FEMA Policy #405-143-1 - Prohibitions on Expending FEMA Award Funds for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services

Additional guidance is available at Contract Provisions Guide: Navigating Appendix II to Part 200 - Contract Provisions for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards (fema.gov).

FEMA recipients and subrecipients **may not** use any FEMA funds under open or new awards to:

- Procure or obtain any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology of any system;
- Enter into, extend, or renew a contract to procure or obtain any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or

- services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology of any system; or
- Enter into, extend, or renew contracts with entities that use covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system.

#### **I. REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES**

FEMA grant funding may be permitted to procure replacement equipment and services impacted by this prohibition, provided the costs are otherwise consistent with the requirements of the NOFO.

#### **II. DEFINITIONS**

Per section 889(f)(2)-(3) of the FY 2019 NDAA and 2 C.F.R. § 200.216, covered telecommunications equipment or services means:

- i. Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation, (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
- ii. For the purpose of public safety, security of Government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
- iii. Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment; or
- iv. Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the People's Republic of China.

Examples of the types of products covered by this prohibition include phones, internet, video surveillance, and cloud servers when produced, provided, or used by the entities listed in the definition of "covered telecommunications equipment or services." See 2 C.F.R. § 200.471.

#### **b. 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, see Appendix C for details. 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 request approval from FEMA to incur such pre-award costs. Requests must be sent via email to [FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov) and include the application number and justification narrative. Please note, the recipient must seek approval at the time of acquisition and before the award is announced.
- The recipient must receive written 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.
- The pre-award cost must meet the requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 200.458, which provides that the costs must be necessary for efficient and timely performance of the grant's scope of work.

**Note:** FEMA reserves the right to re-evaluate and disallow pre-award costs at time of award monitoring if it is later determined that the services were not properly procured or do not satisfy the requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 200.458.

See Appendix C for further information regarding grant writer fees and Section H-Additional Information of this NOFO for general procurement under grants requirements.

**c. *Management and Administration (M&A) Costs***

M&A costs are allowed by Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024, Pub. L. No. 118-47. M&A activities are those directly related to the management and administration of the AFG award funds, such as financial management and monitoring. M&A are not operational costs but are necessary costs incurred in direct support of the federal award or as a consequence of it, such as travel, meeting-related expenses, and salaries of full/part-time staff in direct support of the program. As such, M&A costs can be itemized in financial reports.

M&A expenses should be based only on actual expenses or known contractual costs. Requests that are simple percentages of the award, without supporting justification or adequate documentation, will not be allowed or considered for an award. In addition, reimbursement for fees associated with hiring grants management services is now capped at \$1,500. No more than 3% of the federal share of AFG Program funds awarded may be expended by the recipient for M&A for purposes associated with the AFG Program award.

**d. *Indirect Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Costs***

Indirect (F&A) costs (IDC) mean those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. IDC are allowable by the recipient [and subrecipients] as described in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, including 2 C.F.R. § 200.414. Applicants with a current negotiated IDC rate agreement who desire to charge indirect costs to a federal award must provide a copy of their IDC rate agreement with their applications. Not all applicants are required to have a current negotiated IDC rate agreement. Applicants that are not

required to have a negotiated IDC rate agreement but are required to develop an IDC rate proposal must provide a copy of their proposal with their applications. Applicants who do not have a current negotiated IDC rate agreement (including a provisional rate) and wish to charge the de minimis rate must reach out to [FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov) for further instructions. Applicants who wish to use a cost allocation plan in lieu of an IDC rate proposal must reach out to [FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov) for further instructions. As it relates to the IDC for subrecipients, a recipient must follow the requirements of 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.332 and 200.414 in approving the IDC rate for subawards.

e. ***Evaluation Costs***

Evaluation costs are allowable. See Section H.2 “Program Evaluation” for more details.

f. ***Other Direct Costs***

- **Construction:** Construction costs are not eligible under the AFG Program. Construction includes major alterations to a building that changes the profile or footprint of the structure. Modifications to facilities activities described in Appendix B- Funding Priorities, are not considered construction costs for purposes of general award cost categorization and may be eligible. However, modifications to facilities activities might be considered “construction” for purposes of applicable procurement under grants requirements or environmental protection and historic preservation purposes.
- **Fire Departments and Nonaffiliated EMS organizations funding restrictions:** The total amount of funding a fire department or nonaffiliated EMS organization recipient may receive under an AFG Program award is limited to the 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: (1) population served and (2) a 1% aggregate amount of available grant funds.

The population of the jurisdiction served by the recipient will determine the maximum amount of AFG Program funding a recipient is eligible to receive but no recipient may receive an award that exceeds 1% of available grant funds in FY 2024, or \$2,916,000.00. FEMA may waive this aggregate cap 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.

The following table explains the maximum funding that a recipient may receive in FY 2024:



Population of the jurisdiction served by the recipient	Maximum award in FY 2024	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 \$2.91 million	None available
1,000,001 – 2,500,000 people	No more than \$2.91 million	Yes, but no more than \$6 million
More than 2,500,000 people	No more than \$2.91 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 of the application and the participating partners. For example, if the host and partners serve a population of 100,000 or fewer and are the recipients of a Regional award for \$1 million, then the host has met their cap and is no longer eligible for additional funds under the AFG Program.

- **Allocations and Restrictions of Available Grant Funds by Organization Type**
  - **Fire Departments:** Not less than 25% of available grant funds shall be awarded to career, combination, or volunteer department types (total of 75%).
  - **Nonaffiliated EMS Organizations:** Not more than 2% of available grant funds shall be collectively awarded to all nonaffiliated EMS organization recipients.
  - **Emergency Medical Services Providers:** Not less than 3.5% 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% of available grant funds shall be collectively awarded to all SFTA recipients. Further, not more than \$500,000 of available federal grant funds may be awarded per SFTA applicant.
  - **Vehicles:** Not more than 25% 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% of the total vehicle funds for ambulances.
  - **Micro Grants:** The selection of the voluntary Micro Grant option (cumulative federal funding of \$75,000) for eligible High Priority Operations and Safety activities does not impact an applicant's request or 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 Acquisition or Regional project. Of the 25% allocated to each of the career, combination, and volunteer departments, FEMA will aim to fund no less than 25% of the allocation for Micro Grants.

## **E. Application Review Information**

### **1. Application Evaluation Criteria**

#### **a. *Programmatic Criteria***

Funding priorities and programmatic criteria for evaluating AFG Program 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 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 FEMA Administrator reviews and approves the CDP's recommendations. 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.

#### **b. *Financial Integrity Criteria***

Prior to making a federal award, FEMA is required by 31 U.S.C. § 3354, as enacted by the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019, Pub. L. No. 116-117 (2020); 41 U.S.C. § 2313; and 2 C.F.R. § 200.206 to review information available through any Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-designated repositories of governmentwide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, including whether SAM.gov identifies the applicant as being excluded from receiving federal awards or is flagged for any integrity record submission. FEMA may also pose additional questions to the applicant to aid in conducting the pre-award risk review. Therefore, application evaluation criteria may include the following risk-based considerations of the applicant:

- i. Financial stability.
- ii. Quality of management systems and ability to meet management standards.
- iii. History of performance in managing federal award.
- iv. Reports and findings from audits.
- v. Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

**c. *Supplemental Financial Integrity Criteria and Review***

Prior to making a federal award where the anticipated total federal share will be greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, currently \$250,000:

- i. FEMA is required by 41 U.S.C. § 2313 and 2 C.F.R. § 200.206(a)(2) to review and consider any information about the applicant, including information on the applicant's immediate and highest-level owner, subsidiaries, and predecessors, if applicable, that is 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).
- ii. An applicant, at its option, may review information in FAPIIS and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered.
- iii. 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. § 200.206.

**2. Review and Selection Process**

AFG Program 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 funding notice.

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

**a. *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 the pre-score process. "Request Details" and "Budget" information should comply with

program guidance and statutory funding limitations. The pre-score is half of the total application score.

**b. Peer Review Panel Process**

Applications with the highest rankings from the pre-scoring process will undergo a Peer Review Panel process. A panel of peer reviewers is composed 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. Peer reviewers 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 half of the total application score.

**1. NARRATIVE EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The Narrative Statements must provide specific details about the activity for which the applicants seek funding. Applicants must explain how the proposed activity(ies) relate to the Operations and Safety Activity or the Vehicle Acquisition Activity. FEMA reviews and compares applications for **duplication including narratives and statistical data**. Therefore, all elements of the Narrative Statements must be original, and **all statistical data must be accurate**. Applications with narratives that have substantial copying of sentences or paragraphs **and/or inaccurate data** that may mislead reviewers may be disqualified. Falsification, fabrication, or plagiarism of other grant proposals will disqualify the application(s). Each narrative section allows no more than 4,000 characters each, including spaces and punctuation.

FEMA has developed a Narrative Development Toolkit and Self Evaluation Sheets available on FEMA website: [Assistance to Firefighters Grants Documents | FEMA.gov](#). The documents are designed to assist applicants with narrative preparation and provide specific criteria used by a panel of peer reviewers when evaluating each application. FEMA encourages applicants to use these documents to prepare their applications.

Peer reviewers will evaluate and select a score of Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree or Strongly Disagree for each narrative section based on the following narrative elements within each activity.

**Financial Need (25%). This section allows 4,000 characters (including spaces and punctuation).**

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.

**Project Description and Budget (25%). This section allows 4,000 characters (including spaces and punctuation).**

The Project Description and Budget statement should clearly explain the applicant's project objectives and their 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, local, or tribal requirements. Applicants should link the proposed expenses to operations and safety, as well as to the completion of the project's goals.

**Cost Benefit (25%). This section allows 4,000 characters (including spaces and punctuation).**

Applicants should describe how they plan to address the operational and personnel safety needs of the 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.

**Statement of Effect on Operations (25%). This section allows 4,000 characters (including spaces and punctuation).**

The Statement of Effect on Operations 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 Wildfire and Wildland Urban Interface code enforcement) and mitigation strategies (including whether the jurisdiction has a FEMA-approved mitigation strategy) may receive stronger consideration under this criterion.

**c. *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 as well as a FEMA Program Office review before being recommended for award. The FEMA Program Office will make a final assessment of the application with respect to costs, quantities, feasibility, eligibility, and recipient responsibility prior to recommending any application for award. During TEP, the information in Appendix B is used to make final corrections to any request not meeting program eligibility requirements. This is not a scored phase of the application process. Requests may be recommended for partial funding based on findings made during this assessment.

## **F. Federal Award Administration Information**

In addition to the language below, please see Appendix C of this NOFO for additional award administration information.

### **1. Notice of Award**

Before accepting the award, the AOR and recipient should carefully read the award package. The award package includes 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 specific terms and conditions in the Notice of Award to receive an award under this program.**

FEMA will provide the federal award package to the applicant electronically via FEMA GO. Award packages include an Award Letter, Summary Award Memo, Agreement Articles, and Obligating Document. An email notification of the award package will be sent through FEMA's grant application system to the AOR that submitted the application.

Recipients must accept their awards no later 30 days from the award date. The recipient shall notify FEMA of its intent to accept and proceed with work under the award through the FEMA GO system.

Funds will remain on hold until the recipient accepts the award through the FEMA GO system and all other conditions of the award have been satisfied or until the award is otherwise rescinded. Failure to accept a grant award within the specified timeframe may result in a loss of funds.

### **2. Difference between Application Request and Award**

During the review process for an AFG Program award, FEMA may modify 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 but not funded by the award. The award package will identify any such differences under the Approved Scope of Work section.

### **3. Turndown Notifications**

FEMA GO will provide all applicants who do not receive an FY 2024 AFG Program award with a turndown notification.

### **4. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

In addition to the requirements of in this section and in this NOFO, FEMA may place specific terms and conditions on individual awards in accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

**a. *DHS Standard Terms and Conditions***

All successful applicants for 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 the award was made. What terms and conditions will apply for the award will be clearly stated in the award package at the time of award.

**b. *Ensuring the Protection of Civil Rights***

As the Nation works towards achieving the National Preparedness Goal, it is important to continue to protect the civil rights of individuals. Recipients and subrecipients must carry out their programs and activities, including those related to the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities, in a manner that respects and ensures the protection of civil rights for protected populations.

Federal civil rights statutes, such as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, along with DHS and FEMA regulations, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, limited English proficiency, or economic status in connection with programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance from FEMA, as applicable.

The DHS Standard Terms and Conditions include a fuller list of the civil rights provisions that apply to recipients. These terms and conditions can be found in the DHS Standard Terms and Conditions. Additional information on civil rights provisions is available at <https://www.fema.gov/about/offices/equal-rights/civil-rights>.

Monitoring and oversight requirements in connection with recipient compliance with federal civil rights laws are also authorized pursuant to 44 C.F.R. Part 7 or other applicable regulations.

In accordance with civil rights laws and regulations, recipients and subrecipients must ensure the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment.

**c. *Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) Compliance***

As a federal agency, 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 FEMA, including grant-funded projects, comply with federal EHP laws, Executive Orders, regulations, and policies, as applicable.

**Recipients and subrecipients proposing projects that have the potential to impact the environment, including, but not limited to, the construction of**