

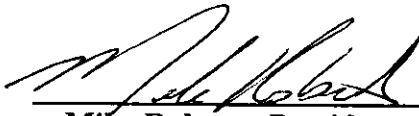
**ORDER: AUTHORIZE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
2022 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER'S GRANT**

Motion was made by Larry Gillespie, duly seconded by Chad McLarty, to authorize Fire Department to apply for the Fiscal Year 2022 Assistance to Firefighter's Grant.

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 17th day of January, 2023.



**Mike Roberts, President
Board of Supervisors**



Sherry Wall, Chancery Clerk

The Department of Homeland Security
Notice of Funding Opportunity
Fiscal Year 2022 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

Effective April 4, 2022, the Federal Government transitioned from using the Data Universal Numbering System or DUNS number, to a new, non-proprietary identifier known as a Unique Entity Identifier or UEI. For entities that had an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to this date, the UEI has automatically been assigned and no action is necessary. For all entities filing a new registration in SAM.gov after April 4, 2022, the UEI will be assigned to that entity as part of the SAM.gov registration process.

UEI registration information is available on GSA.gov at [Unique Entity Identifier Update | GSA](#).

Grants.gov registration information can be found at:
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>. Detailed information regarding UEI and SAM is also provided in [Section D](#) of this NOFO.

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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 2022 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

5. Funding Opportunity Number

DHS-22-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

Title III, Division F of the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2022* (Pub. L. No. 117-103)

8. Announcement Type

Initial

9. Program Category

Preparedness: Fire and Life Safety

10. Program Overview, Objectives, and Priorities

a. *Overview*

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 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 public and firefighters 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 \$8.1 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 600 fire apparatuses, 102,000 personal protective equipment items, and 124,000 other fire equipment to over 3,800 unique recipients. During the same period, the AFG Program awarded 588 recipients approximately \$90 million 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](#).

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. 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.

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.

In 2021, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) published a needs assessment survey, highlighting challenges that departments across the nation faced with a lack of equipment, training, and health programs. The results revealed nearly two-thirds of departments have firefighters wearing personal protective clothing that is 10 years old or older; 21% of department personnel who perform emergency medical services have no certifications; 72% of fire departments do not have programs to maintain basic firefighter fitness and health; and nearly three-quarters (73%) of all fire departments in the U.S. do not have a behavioral health program. The needs assessment underscores the widespread lack of equipment, training, and health programs required for the life and safety of emergency personnel. The AFG Program seeks to meet those needs and bring such entities into compliance with industry standards.

b. *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.

c. *Priorities*

Information on program priorities and objectives for the FY 2022 AFG Program can be found in [Appendix B – Programmatic Information and Priorities](#).

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.
- Percentage 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.

B. Federal Award Information

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Available Funding for the NOFO: | \$324 million¹ |
| 2. Projected Number of Awards: | 2,000 |
| 3. Period of Performance: | 24 months |

While all recipients are expected to complete the awarded activities within the period of performance specified in the award package, extensions to the period of performance are allowed. For additional information on period of performance extensions, please refer to [Section H](#).

¹ Note that this figure differs from the total amount appropriated under the *Title III, Division F of Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2022*, Pub. L. No. 117-103. In this FY 2022 AFG Program NOFO, percentages of "available grant funds" refers to the total amount appropriated—\$360,000,000—by Pub. L. No. 117-103 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. \$36,000,000 will be allocated to FP&S for FY 2022.

FEMA awards under most programs, including this program, only include one budget period, so it will be the same as the period of performance. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.1 for definitions of “budget period” and “period of performance.”

4. Projected Period of Performance Start Date(s): N/A²
5. Projected Period of Performance End Date(s): N/A
6. 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,³ 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,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; and
 - Any other institution, association, or foundation providing medical, surgical or psychiatric care and/or treatment for the sick or injured.

² 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.

³ 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).

- **State Fire Training Academies:** An 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.³ 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 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 2022 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. Other Eligibility Criteria

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 2022 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.

4. *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 is at least 80% or more of the average of what the applicant spent on such costs for those activities in fiscal years 2020 and 2021. This includes those funded with non-federal funding for activities that could be allowable costs under this NOFO at a level that at least 80% or more of the average of what the applicant spent on such costs for those activities in fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

5. *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;
- 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 (MOU) as described in Appendix B: Regional Applications.

FEMA has developed a cost share calculator tool to assist applicants with determining their cost share. The cost share tool is available at:
<https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/assistance-grants>.

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.

Economic Hardship Waivers

The FEMA Administrator may waive or reduce recipient cost share or Maintenance of Effort (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:** 01/09/2023 at 8:00 a.m. ET
- b. **Application Submission Deadline:** 02/10/2023 at 5:00 p.m. 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 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. 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.9 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 or (877) 611-4700, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.– 6 p.m. 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. The AFG Program Helpdesk is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET.

- c. **Anticipated Funding Selection Date:** No later than April 30, 2023
- d. **Anticipated Award Date:** Beginning on approximately April 30, 2023 and continuing thereafter until all FY 2022 AFG Program grant awards are issued (but no later than September 30, 2023).
- 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/>.

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.

4. 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 Unique Entity Identifier (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;
- 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 Authorized Organizational Representative (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/media-library/assets/documents/181607>;
- 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 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.

5. **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.**

6. **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, an active System for Award Management (SAM) registration and FEMA GO account to apply for grants.

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

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 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.