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This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people:

Subscribers of Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (57680 recipients)



FY 2013 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT PROGRAM TO OPEN JULY 29, 2013

- ▶ **FY 2013 SAFER GRANT PROGRAM TOOLS AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE**
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FY 2013 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT PROGRAM TO OPEN JULY 29, 2013

Starting Monday, July 29, 2013, online applications will be accepted for FY 2013 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants. The deadline for all SAFER grant applications will be **Friday, August 30, 2013, at 5 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)**.

HOW TO APPLY

For information on how to apply, visit the [SAFER Grants Web Page](#) on the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Website (www.fema.gov/firegrants).

The first step is to read the [FY 2013 SAFER Funding Opportunity Announcement](#). This document describes how to apply for a grant, activities that will be funded, types of organizations that are eligible to receive awards, the evaluation criteria for making awards, and the federal requirements for grantees.

Activities Eligible for SAFER Grants:

- **Hiring of Firefighters** (Career, Combination, and Volunteer Fire Departments)
- **Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters** (Combination and Volunteer Fire Departments and national, state, local, or tribal organizations that represent the interests of volunteer firefighters)

FY 2013 SAFER GRANT PROGRAM TOOLS AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE

A number of resources have been developed to help potential applicants plan and submit their SAFER grant applications. The following resources can be downloaded from the [SAFER Grant Web Page](#):

- [SAFER Grants Get Ready Guides](#). A short guide to help you kick-start your grant application and identify and address the most important elements of all the grant application questions.
- [SAFER Grant Self-Evaluation Sheets](#). Based on the application scoring dimensions used by peer reviewers, these tools can help you assess your organization's readiness to apply for a grant and help you plan your grant application.

AFG Help Desk. If you have questions about the FP&S Funding Opportunity Announcement or any of the resources, contact the AFG Help Desk by telephone (toll-free at 1-866-274-0960) or by e-mail (firegrants@fema.dhs.gov).

IMPORTANT: ALL APPLICANTS AND GRANTEES MUST REGISTER IN THE SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM)

- **ALL GRANT APPLICANTS:** Please ensure that your entity has an active registration in SAM.gov. Registration is required to award all new awards for FY 2012 and 2013. It may take several days for a newly submitted registration to become active.
- **POTENTIAL APPLICANTS?** If you are thinking about applying for FY 2013 funds, you should register your organization on SAM.gov as soon as possible. Register in SAM.gov as soon as you can -- don't wait for the application period to open. ** Please note that starting with the FY 2013 AFG Program applicants are required to be registered in SAM *prior* to submitting their application.
- **CURRENT GRANTEES:** Current grantees must have an active registration in SAM.gov to avoid delays in receiving approval of amendment and payment requests.
- **EVERYONE:** Make sure the banking information, employer ID number, and DUNS number you report in SAM.gov are accurate; the data you enter in SAM.gov and in your grant applications must match.

Remember that registration on SAM.gov is completely free of charge. There is no fee for you to register or to renew or update your organization's information on [SAM.gov](#). You may see the websites of private businesses or contractors that will register your organization in SAM for you—for a fee. These websites often look like government websites at first glance. **BUT remember that paying any fee is unnecessary to use SAM.gov and its resources.**

TO OBTAIN HELP WITH SAM.GOV:

1. **Visit the SAM.gov Website.** First, become familiar with SAM.gov. Browse through and read the Guides, Top FAQs, and other information that can be found online at the [SAM.gov website](#), the [SAM Helpful Hints page](#), and the [Federal Service Desk](http://www.fsd.gov) at www.fsd.gov
2. **View the SAM Webinar.** Next, view the prerecorded [SAM Webinar](#) for users, which covers topics like
 - Creating a new SAM user account;
 - Migrating permissions from the legacy Central Contractors Registry (CCR) system into SAM; and
 - Updating and renewing an existing registration.
3. **Contact the AFG Grants Management Specialists (GMS).** Next, send questions you have by e-mail to the AFG Grants Management Specialist for your FEMA region. A list of the GMS for each FEMA Region can be [found on the AFG Website](#). Faxes for the GMS staff may be sent to 202-786-9905.

[SAM/Federal Service Desk \(Help Desk\)](#). If you are still having problems navigating in SAM.gov, call the toll-free SAM.gov [Federal Service Desk](#) at 1-866-606-8220, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

AFG CALENDAR

NOTE: All information, including dates and projected application periods are subject to change. When a conference is listed, the AFG Program either will be exhibiting and/or giving a presentation or workshop.

JULY/AUGUST

- FY 2013 SAFER Application Period

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- FY 2013 AFG Application Period Opens (**tentative**)
- *August 16-17, 2013.* Fire-Rescue International, McCormack Place, Chicago, Illinois. AFG staff will present an overview of the impact of the recent funding reauthorization by Congress as well as provide an open forum for participants to bring their questions directly to AFG leaders. Visit the AFG booth #5242 to meet with AFG staff.

FALL/WINTER

- FY 2013 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Application period opens (**tentative**)

AFG Home Page:

www.fema.gov/firegrants

AFG Help Desk:

E-mail: firegrants@fema.dhs.gov
Telephone Toll-Free: 1-866-274-0960



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