
Assistance to Firefighters Grant banner with DHS logo



ANNOUNCEMENT: SAFER VETERANS HIRING PROGRAM

CENTRAL CONTRACTOR REGISTRY (CCR) TO CLOSE ON TUESDAY, JULY 24, FOR TRANSITION TO SAM.GOV

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America's veterans have and continue to serve our country well. They have made countless sacrifices to ensure the freedoms and security of their fellow citizens. Now you can further honor their service, thank them for their dedication, and give them yet one more opportunity to serve the Nation.

There may be no better way to say thank you, while at the same time benefit your fire department, your fellow firefighters, and your community, than to hire a veteran to join your ranks. America's Veterans have a proven track record of dependability, teamwork, individual problem solving, and a deep commitment to public service that makes them ideally suited to the role of firefighter.

FEMA is committed to supporting military veterans and strongly encourages applicants to seek, recruit, and hire veterans to increase their ranks within their departments.

FEMA is encouraging fire departments applying for FY 2012 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) hiring grants to make the recruitment and hiring of veterans a priority and focus of their hiring policies and recruitment efforts. FEMA has developed several strategies and incentives that will be available to grantees that hire military veterans. Of the \$320 million authorized for the FY 2012 SAFER grant program, \$50 million in grant funds will be set aside specifically to fund SAFER firefighter positions that are filled by military veterans who are new employees not currently employed in the fire service.

As stated in the FY 2012 SAFER program guidance, hiring grant applicants that have a policy in place addressing their intent to implement strategies to support the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 and have recruiting efforts aimed at hiring post-9/11 Veterans will receive additional consideration. To receive this additional consideration, the applicant must describe their specific policies and recruiting efforts in the application's Narrative Statement. Each SAFER firefighter position that is filled by a military veteran will be eligible to receive full funding for three years instead of the usual two years.

SAFER hiring grant applicants should complete their applications as usual and submit them before the August 10, 2012, deadline. Hiring grant budgets should be prepared assuming that the firefighter positions will be filled for two years only. All grantees receiving awards for new hires will have 90 days to recruit the number of firefighters for which they are awarded. Third-year funding for SAFER firefighters who are veterans will be approved on a case-by-case basis through a post-award amendment process.

Materials explaining the procedures to be followed are being developed and will be distributed shortly.

CENTRAL CONTRACTOR REGISTRY (CCR) TO CLOSE ON TUESDAY, JULY 24, FOR TRANSITION TO SAM.GOV

All the data in the [Central Contractor Registry \(CCR\)](#) is being migrated to the new [System for Award Management \(SAM\) \(SAM.gov\)](#), starting 12 midnight on Tuesday, July 24, 2012. The purpose of this move is to consolidate several Federal data systems and reduce the number of systems to which grantees and contractors must report data.

Here are answers to some basic questions about the transition from CCR to SAM:

Q What is the timeline for the CCR transition to SAM?

A CCR will not process any new registrations after 12 midnight on Tuesday, July 24. **You also will not be able to make any edits to your existing information in the CCR system after this date.** SAM will be online as of Monday, July 30. At that time you will be able to go to SAM.gov and open a new user account. As with CCR, registration in SAM is free.

Q What does this mean to SAFER applicants and AFG awardees?

A If you have a current CCR registration, you do not need to do anything right away. When it is time to renew your current CCR registration, you will do it in SAM.

Q What will happen to my data?

A Your data will be migrated or moved from CCR into SAM. It will be in SAM when it is time for you to renew your registration. You will go to SAM.gov, register for a new SAM user account, and follow the online instructions to validate and update your information, which will have been transferred from CCR.

Q When do I need to register for a user account in SAM?

A You do not need to do anything right away. In fact, you cannot register for a user account in SAM until SAM goes live on July 30. You only need to register for a user account in SAM when it is time to begin updating your current registration.

Q My registration record was set to expire after July 16, and I haven't renewed it yet. What do I do?

A If a current registrant's record was set to expire between July 16, and October 15, 2012, the expiration date will be extended by 90 days. You will receive an e-mail notification from CCR when the expiration date has been extended. You will receive e-mail reminders from SAM to update your record before it expires at the end of the 90-day extension.

Q I still need to register in the CCR. What do I do now?

A If you have not yet started to register in the CCR, you should wait and register in the new SAM system, which will be online by Monday, July 30. As a reminder, you do not have to be registered just to submit your SAFER application, but you will need to be registered to receive an award.

Q I started but did not complete registration in CCR. What do I do?

A If you are a new registrant but did not complete registration in the CCR before Monday, July 23, you should wait until Monday, July 30 before doing any further work on your registration. The data you already entered will be transferred from CCR to the new SAM database between July 25 and July 29. SAM will be online effective July 30, and after that date you will be able to go to SAM.gov, create a new user account, and follow the online instructions to complete your registration.

Q Where can I find more information about CCR and SAM?

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- AFG contacts on CCR issues: Chanee Williams (Chanee.Williams@fema.dhs.gov) and Jane Early (Jane.Early@fema.dhs.gov).
- [SAM.gov](#)
- [SAM Quick Start Guide](#) for new grant applicants.

AFG 2012 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

- July 16, 2012: FY 2012 SAFER Grant application period opens.
- July 21-27, 2012. [International Association of Fire Fighters 51st Convention](#), Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA.
- FY 2011 SAFER Grants: Award announcements are underway.
- FY 2011 Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grants: *Award announcements are underway and will continue until all available grant funds have been committed.*

AUGUST

- August 1-4, 2012. AFG Program Staff present "AFG Town Hall Discussion" and "Best Practices for Recruitment and Retention (SAFER) and Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S): Getting Your Grant Funded," at [Fire-Rescue International](#), Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO.
- August 10, 2012, 5 p.m. EDT: Deadline for submitting FY 2012 SAFER Grant Applications.

SEPTEMBER

- FY 2012 AFG and FY 2012 SAFER Grants: *Award announcements are expected to begin and will continue until all available grant funds have been committed.*

OCTOBER

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