

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG)



Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) Grants

FY2018 FP&S Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of FY2018 FP&S Grants?

The purpose of this grant program is to fund Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Activities and Firefighter Safety Research and Development (R&D) Activities. FP&S Activities are designed to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate incidences of death, injuries, and property damage caused by fire and fire-related hazards. Firefighter Safety R&D Activities are aimed at improvements to firefighter health and safety.

How do I apply for a FP&S Grant?

The automated FY2018 FP&S Grant application is accessible from the AFG website (www.fema.gov/firegrants/). The automated application has been designed with help screens and drop-down menus to assist you throughout the application process.

Note: If you are using any Web browser other than Internet Explorer, such as Firefox or Netscape, you may have problems with the drop-down menus in the application. You can either access our application through Internet Explorer (which is preferred) or you can use the up and down keys on your keyboard to make the selection; then click enter.

Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants for the FP&S Activity include fire departments; and national, regional, state, local, federally recognized tribal, and non-profit organizations that are recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention and safety programs and activities. Both private and public non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for funding in this activity.

Eligible applicants for the Firefighter Safety R&D Activity include national, state, local, federally recognized tribal, and non-profit organizations, such as academic (e.g., universities), public health, occupational health, and injury prevention institutions, especially those recognized for experience and expertise in firefighter safety research and development programs or whose applications demonstrate strong experience and expertise in research and development that has the potential to improve firefighter safety. Both private and public non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for funding in this activity.

Fire departments are not eligible to apply for funding in the R&D Activity. Additionally, for-profit organizations, federal agencies, and individuals are not eligible to receive a grant award under the R&D Activity.

What projects can I apply for?

FP&S Grants are separated into the following two activities:

1. Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Activity: Applicants can apply for up to three separate projects within this activity. The

period of performance for projects funded under the FP&S Activity is generally 12 months. Eligible applicants who propose complex projects, such as those under the National/State/Regional Programs and Studies project category, may apply for up to a 24 month period of performance from the date of award. Eligible project categories include: Community Risk Reduction (Smoke Alarms, Sprinkler Awareness, Risk Assessments, Public Education, Training, General Prevention/Awareness, Juvenile Firesetter Projects, Wildland Fire Prevention Programs), Code Enforcement/Awareness, Fire & Arson Investigation, and National/State/Regional Programs and Studies. Applicants requesting a Risk Assessment project are precluded from applying for additional projects. All applicants are subject to a five percent cost share.

2. Firefighter Safety Research and Development (R&D) Activity: Applicants can apply for up to three separate projects within this activity. The period of performance is 12, 24, or 36 months from the date of award. Proposed projects must address the potential for a successful research outcome to be implemented in the fire service and reduce firefighter fatalities or injuries. Eligible project categories include: Clinical Studies, Technology and Product Development, Database System Development, Dissemination and Implementation Research, Preliminary Studies, and Early Career Investigators. All applicants are subject to a five percent cost share.

How many projects can I apply for under FP&S?

Applicants may submit only one FP&S Grant application per FP&S Grant application period, but may request financial assistance for as many as three projects under each activity (FP&S and R&D).

Does my project have to address children, seniors, or firefighters?

You have to determine the target population that is at risk in your community. You do not have to conform to national statistics in order to be eligible for funding. You need to justify how you determined the target population, how your proposed project will address the community's vulnerability and benefit the target population. In addition, you need to ensure your solution is age-appropriate for that target population.

Are sprinkler systems eligible for funding?

A sprinkler system installed for demonstration only purposes can be eligible for funding, but it must be part of a comprehensive sprinkler educational effort.

How much funding is available for the FY2018 FP&S?

There is \$35 million available for funding FP&S Grant Program Activities. Each applicant can submit a request for up to \$1.5 million federal share.

What is the maximum amount of funding an applicant can be awarded?

Each applicant can submit a request for up to \$1.5 million federal share and ultimately receive an award for that amount. For multi-year projects, applicants can divide the \$1.5 million over the period of performance however they deem necessary.

FP&S Research and Development applicants applying under the Early Career Investigator category are limited to a maximum federal share of \$75,000 per project year.

Where do I submit the federally approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement?

You do not need to submit a copy of your Indirect Cost Rate Agreement at the time of application. If you are awarded a grant, we will request a copy at that time. However, please ensure that the request details budget portion of your application includes information pertaining to your Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.

I was recently awarded a FY2017 FP&S Grant. Can I still apply for a FY2018 FP&S Grant?

Yes. However, since the possibility exists that the period of performance on the FY2017 and the FY2018 Grants will overlap, you need to ensure that if you are awarded a FY2018 Grant, the start of your FY2018 Grant does not depend on the completion of your FY2017 Grant. Additionally, you should ensure that receipt of a FY2018 Grant will not impact your ability to continue with and/or complete your FY2017 Grant.

What changes were made to the FP&S since last year?

- Under the FP&S Activity, clarification has been provided that Risk Assessments can include Wildland and Wildland Urban Interface Risk Assessments.
- The following performance metrics have been added to the FY2018 FP&S NOFO:
 - FP&S Activity
 - Community Risk Reduction: 1. Decrease in fire incidents per 100 residents in target population, 2. Decrease in fire deaths per 1000 residents in target population, 3. Percent of whole community population trained, 4. Percent of target population trained, 5. Local number of lives saved, and 6. Local number of Quality-adjusted life years (QALY).
 - Code Enforcement/Awareness: 1. Decrease in percentage of total fire losses occurring in inspectable occupancies, 2. Decrease in number of structural fires/1000 residents of inspectable occupancies, 3. Decrease in fire deaths/1000 residents of inspectable occupancies, and 4. Decrease in inspectable property structure fires with at least \$25,000 in loss.
 - Fire and Arson Investigation: 1. Increase in percentage of fires where cause is determined, and 2. Increase in arson arrest and conviction rates.
 - National/State/Regional Programs and Studies: 1. Number of firefighters trained.
 - R&D Activity (All Categories)
 1. Number of Training Academies adopting training materials developed through FP&S Research (breakout by Career and Volunteer)
 2. Number of firefighters trained with materials developed through FP&S Research (breakout by Career and Volunteer)
 3. Industry standards influenced, changed, or added through FP&S Research

How does an eligible applicant obtain help with the application?

Call the AFG/FP&S Help Desk at (866) 274-0960 with your questions. During the application period (11/12/2018 - 12/21/2018), the Help Desk will be staffed between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. However, the hours may change as the application period progresses. The toll-free number also accepts voice mail messages after hours or if the lines are busy. Questions may also be faxed to (866) 274-0942 or e-mailed to FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov.

What is the deadline for FY2018 FP&S Grant applications to be submitted?

All applications must be completed and submitted online by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, December 21, 2018.

How are the FP&S Grant applications reviewed?

FP&S Grant applications will be reviewed according to the evaluation criteria listed in the NOFO. Review the NOFO and focus on these criteria in order to develop a competitive application for panel reviews. All eligible FP&S Grant applications go to panel reviews.

When will the awards be announced?

Award announcements will be made at the beginning of Summer 2019 and on a continuous basis until all available funds have been awarded.

Is there a cost share for fire departments?

Yes. In general, an applicant seeking an FP&S Grant to carry out an activity shall agree to make available non-federal funds to carry out such activity in an amount equal to and not less than five percent of the grant awarded. The cost share is automatically calculated by the eGrant system in the Budget section of the application.

All recipients should ensure that they are thoroughly familiar with FEMA's cost sharing requirements, as well as appropriate cost principles in the federal regulations applicable at the time a grant is awarded.

Applicants who are under consideration for award and plan to use in-kind as their method for cost sharing will be asked to submit their plan for documenting and verifying in-kind contributions prior to award.

NOTE: The Administrator of FEMA may waive or reduce cost share requirements in cases of demonstrated economic hardship. For more information, please refer to the NOFO, Appendix C. Award Administration Information, I. Economic Hardship Waivers of Cost Share and Maintenance of Effort Requirements for the Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) Grant Program.

Types of Contributions

1. Cash

Cost share match (cash or hard match), including non-federal cash spent for project-related costs.

2. In-Kind

In-kind (soft; other than cash payments) cost share matches are allowable for FP&S Grants. Such matches include, but are not limited to, the valuation of in-kind services, complementary activities, and provision of staff, facilities, services, material, or equipment. In-kind is the value of something received or provided that does not have a cost associated with it. For example, where an in-kind match is permitted, then the value of donated services could be used to comply with the match requirement. Also, third party in-kind contributions may count toward satisfying match requirements, provided the recipient receiving the contributions expends them as allowable costs in compliance with provisions listed above.

Recipients who use in-kind contributions for their five percent cost share must comply with all applicable regulations and 2 C.F.R. Part 200 regarding matching or cost-sharing. Applicants who are under consideration for award and plan to use in-kind as their method for cost sharing will be asked to submit their plan for documenting and verifying in-kind contributions prior to award. Please see 2 CFR § 200.306, as applicable, for further guidance regarding cost matching. For more information on 2 C.F.R. Part 200, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/101236>.

Will there be a cost share requirement for national, regional, state, local or community organizations this year?

Yes, there is a cost share requirement of five percent for national, regional, state, local or community organizations applying under either the FP&S Activity or the R&D Activity. In general, all eligible applicants seeking an FP&S Grant to carry out an activity shall agree to make available non-federal funds to carry out such activity in an amount equal to and not less than five percent of the grant awarded. The cost share is automatically calculated by the eGrant system in the Budget section of the application.

All recipients should ensure that they are thoroughly familiar with FEMA's cost sharing requirements identified above, as well as appropriate cost principles in the federal regulations applicable at the time a grant is awarded.

Applicants who are under consideration for award and plan to use in-kind as their method for cost sharing will be asked to submit their plan for documenting and verifying in-kind contributions prior to award.

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Are multi-year projects eligible under the Firefighter Safety R&D Activity?

Yes. Firefighter Safety R&D Applicants can propose projects (limited to \$1.5 million federal share) with up to a three year period of performance. Greater detail should be given for the first year; and also describe specific goals and objectives for second (and third) year(s). With reference to the study's goals, objectives, and specific aims, provide a literature review that includes citations in the text and references at the end of the application. The review should make it clear that the proposed study is necessary, different from other current studies, offers a unique contribution, or adds to an existing body of knowledge. Additional information provided should include:

- A contingency plan with examples of what may be the key challenges and plans to address and overcome them.
- A monitoring plan that identifies progress toward achieving established goals and that ensures costs are monitored.
- A spending plan that corresponds with the overall project and specific-year goals and objectives.

I am applying for the Firefighter Safety R&D Activity and the Curriculum Vitae (CV) will not fit into the narrative section. Can I attach this as a file?

Yes, the CV must be included in the Appendix and each CV is limited to 2 pages. The system accepts attachments. R&D Activity applicants should upload their narrative in the space provided on the narrative screen. Applicants for the R&D Activity must comply with the following guidelines:

1. Applications must include one Narrative Statement and one Appendix document (per project).
2. The Narrative Statement for the R&D Activity is limited to 25 pages per project. The first page of the Narrative Statement must include an abstract of about 250 words that addresses purpose and aims, relevance, methods, and anticipated outcomes. Additionally, the fire service evaluation criteria should be addressed at the beginning of the narrative utilizing no more than 5 pages. All narrative text, including pertinent references and footnotes must be in the Narrative Statement. It must include which selected R&D category type the project is addressing. Also, the contact information (e-mail address and telephone number) for the principal investigator must be provided on the first page of the Narrative Statement.
3. It may be useful to organize the Narrative Statement to follow the R&D Evaluation Criteria listed within the NOFO, including the Fire Service criteria first followed by the Science criteria.
4. All references and footnotes pertaining to the Narrative Statement must be in the Narrative Statement. Tables and figures may be included in either the Narrative Statement or the Appendix document.
5. The Appendix is limited to 25 pages per project. It may include, as appropriate, data collection instruments, additional tables and figures, illustrations, specifications for product designs, and letters of commitment and role description from partners. Additionally, if this project is a resubmission, applicants may use the Appendix to address how they adapted the proposal to address reviewer concerns from a previous year.
6. A biographical sketch (biosketch) for the PI and lead scientists, as well as other key research personnel listed in the budget, are to be included in the Appendix, but are limited to a maximum of two pages per biosketch. Applicants are strongly encouraged to follow the biographical sketch sample (see NOFO Section E. Application Review Information, 2. Review and Selection Process, Section e. Biographical Sketch Sample for Research and Development Projects) in preparing the biosketch.
7. **Font:** Times New Roman or Arial.
8. **Font Size:** 11 points (11 pt) or larger.
9. **Page Dimensions:** Page dimensions must be 8.5" x 11" or smaller.
10. **Margins:** All margins (top, bottom, left, and right) must be at least 1".
11. **Header:** The header on each page of the Narrative Statement and the Appendix should contain:
 - PI (surname)
 - Institution name (abbreviated)
 - Project Short Title
 - Page Number