



**FEMA**

**Grant Programs Directorate Information Bulletin  
No. 450  
May 14, 2020**

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** All Eligible FY 2019 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Applicants

**FROM:** Bridget Bean  
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Grant Programs Directorate

**SUBJECT:** **Modifications to the Fiscal Year 2019 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity**

**I. Purpose**

This Information Bulletin (IB) modifies the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program application and submission requirements contained in the FY 2019 SAFER Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) released on April 7, 2020. FEMA acknowledges that fire departments across the nation are facing significantly increased call volumes due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency, which is straining municipal budgets and existing first responder personnel across the country. In response, FEMA is waiving the cost share, position cost limit, supplanting, and minimum budget requirements for the FY 2019 SAFER Grant Program, as well as extending the application deadline until May 27, 2020 at 5 p.m. ET.

Waiving the above requirements will allow economically impacted fire departments, many of which have not been able to maintain funding at the statutorily required levels, to apply for and receive FY 2019 SAFER funding. The extension of the application deadline will provide applicants additional time to submit applications that account for the waived requirements.

Applicants no longer need to request an economic hardship waiver within the online application. No further action is needed by applicants at this time. The waiver of these provisions and the adjustments to the requested amount will be handled by the SAFER Program Office during their technical review of the applications.

**II. Applicability**

This IB applies to FY 2019 SAFER applicants.

### **III. Guidance**

- A. The terms of the original FY 2019 SAFER NOFO released on April 7, 2020 required recipients under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity to contribute non-federal funds subject to a position cost limit (salary cap) and a cost share, as discussed on pages 6-8 of the FY 2019 SAFER NOFO, which can be found on the FEMA [website](#). As directed by this Information Bulletin, these requirements are waived for the FY 2019 SAFER program. Note that recipients under the FY 2019 SAFER Hiring of Firefighters Activity must use SAFER funds to hire new, additional firefighters and the costs to hire those firefighters are limited to the usual annual costs of a first-year (i.e., entry-level) firefighter.
- B. The terms of the original FY 2019 SAFER NOFO required recipients of SAFER grants to meet a minimum budget requirement, as discussed on page 5 of the FY 2019 SAFER NOFO, and required that recipients may not use SAFER funds to supplant or replace funds that would otherwise be available from state or local sources or the Bureau of Indian Affairs, as defined on page 33 of the FY 2019 SAFER NOFO. As directed by this Information Bulletin, these requirements are waived for the FY 2019 SAFER program.
- C. The application submission deadline for the FY 2019 SAFER NOFO is extended to May 27, 2020.

### **IV. Questions**

Any questions regarding this IB may be directed to your SAFER Preparedness Officer (PO) or the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Help Desk at [firegrants@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@fema.dhs.gov) or (866) 274-0960, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET.