

Assistance to Firefighters Grant COVID-19 Supplemental Program

Program Overview



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Purpose

- The purpose of Assistance to Firefighters Grant-Supplemental (AFG-S) is to award grants directly to fire departments, non-affiliated EMS organizations, and State Fire Training Academies to enhance their ability to protect the health and safety of the public, as well as that of first-responder personnel through the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and related essential supplies needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Due to a lack of qualifying applications in the initial application cycle, the AFG-S will have a second application round for volunteer and combination fire departments **only**; NAEMS and SFTAs are **not** eligible to apply under AFG-S round 2.



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Why the 2nd Application Period

Organization Type	Allocation % of Available Funds	Federal Share (AFG-S)
Career departments	Not less than 25%	\$25,000,000
Volunteer departments	Not less than 25%	\$25,000,000
Combination Departments (and departments using paid-on-call firefighting personnel)	Not less than 25%	\$25,000,000
Nonaffiliated EMS Organizations (NAEMS)	Not more than (NMT) 2%	\$2,000,000
State Fire Training Academies (SFTA)	Not more than 3%	\$3,000,000
Competitive awards	Not less than 10%	\$20,000,000*
FP&S set aside	Not applicable under AFG-S. *These funds will be added to the competitive allocation.	\$0

By law:

- NLT 25 percent of available AFG-S funds must be awarded to volunteer fire departments
- NLT another 25 percent must be awarded to combination fire departments.

Those minimum percentages were not met during the first application period

This second application period will be limited to volunteer and combination fire departments to fulfill this requirement.



Funding

- Through the CARES Act, there was \$100M available through the AFG-S.
- The \$100 million in funding appropriated for AFG-S by the CARES Act is separate and distinct from the FY 2019 AFG Program Notice of Funding Opportunity published on Jan. 27, 2020.
- For this second application period a total of \$33M is available.



Maximum Award

Maximum Award in FY2020 (AFG-S)

Population	Maximum Award	Waiver Available
100,000 or fewer people	No more than \$1 million	None available
100,001 – 500,000 people	No more than \$1 million	Yes, but no more than \$2 million
500,001 – 1,000,000 people	No more than \$1 million	Yes, but no more than \$3 million
1,000,001 – 2,500,000 people	No more than \$1 million	Yes, but no more than \$6 million
More than 2,500,000 people	No more than \$1 million	Yes, but no more than \$9 million

- Some/most applicants may request a waiver to the \$1 million maximum award caps.
- Waivers will be evaluated based on whether the recipient has an extraordinary need for a grant that exceeds the aggregate \$1 million cap.
- Additionally, the issuance of awards under the first round of AFG-S contribute to the cap for each entity.





Evaluation Criteria

- Departments will be rated against like departments (e.g., combination, volunteer fire departments) through the following data points:
 - Call volume
 - Population size of the jurisdiction served
- Applicants requesting **reimbursement or requesting immediate use** of PPE will receive a higher consideration than applicants requesting funds to prepare for future COVID response capabilities. Applicant requests should align with information about current supply, response usage, and anticipated peak dates.
- The CDC provides timely updates on the evolving spread of COVID-19 public health emergency cases by state at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>. This data will be taken into consideration when prioritizing funding.

Peer Review Panel Narrative Evaluation Criteria

- **Financial Need (25 percent)**
 - Applicants should describe their financial need and how consistent it is with the intent of the AFG-S Program.
- **Project Description and Budget (25 percent)**
 - The Project Description and Budget statement should clearly explain the applicant's project objectives and its relationship to the applicant's budget and risk analysis.
- **Cost Benefit (25 percent)**
 - Applicants should describe how they plan to address the operations and personal safety needs of their organization, including cost effectiveness and sharing assets.
- **Statement of Effect on Operations (25 percent)**
 - The Statement of Effect on Operations should explain how this funding request will enhance an organization's overall effectiveness.



Applicant Eligibility for AFG-S Round 2

- **Combination Fire Department**, as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 2229, means a fire department that has paid firefighting personnel and volunteer firefighting personnel. Department who pay fees/stipends (Paid on call) are also considered under this category.
- **Volunteer Fire Department**, as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 2229, means a fire department that has an all-volunteer force of firefighting personnel.
- All activities will be limited to the purchase of PPE and related supplies required to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.
- This includes reimbursement for expenditures made since January 1, 2020.



Application Cycle Considerations

- Unsuccessful applicants from the first cycle will be notified prior to the next application period
 - Prior applications will not carry-forward
 - Eligible applicants that were unsuccessful in the first round must reapply to be considered for funding in this round
- Volunteer and combination fire departments are eligible to apply in this round even if they had a successful application in the first round.
 - Must support new capabilities, if successful in first round
 - Must reapply to be considered for funding in this round
 - Must not have already received the award cap



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Eligible Items List

- Eye Protection - Appropriately fitted, indirectly vented goggles or single use disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face.
- Isolation Gowns – Nonsterile, single use fluid-resistant and impermeable disposable patient isolation gown.
- Protective Coveralls – 360-degree protection of whole body, including the back, lower legs and feet.
- Gloves – single use, disposable patient examination gloves.
- Footwear Covers – Single use, disposable medical footwear covers.
- Respirators – Any NIOSH-approved particulate respirator (e.g., N-95 or higher-level respirator), including the purchase of filters appropriate for use.



Eligible Items List (continued)

- Surgical Type Face Masks - Loose-fitting, single use disposable physical barrier between the mouth and nose of the wearer to allow fire and EMS personnel to meet CDC recommendations and/or state mandates for face covering when in a public setting other than direct patient contact.
- Other supplies are also eligible, but will be considered a lower priority than items listed above. Examples include:
 - Decontamination supplies and services for PPE, station-quarters, and vehicles.
 - Replacement High-Efficiency Particulate Air filters and other types of disposable filtration supplies used on EMS respiratory and/or ventilator equipment.
 - Personally-issued antiseptic hand washes, antiseptic hand rubs such as alcohol-based hand sanitizers, foams or gels, and reasonable refill supply



Ineligible Items

- Items that do not fall under the category of PPE or related supplies may be considered ineligible for funding. These items could include:
 - Decontamination Systems
 - Thermometers
 - Medications/COVID Test Kits
 - Barriers or materials to build barriers
 - Fit Tester
 - Structural Firefighting PPE

Additional Eligibility Considerations

- Applicants must certify that all grant-funded PPE will only be used by sufficiently trained personnel (failure to meet this requirement will result in the request for funding deemed ineligible).
- Applicants must certify that when using PPE optimization strategies, training on PPE use, including proper donning and doffing procedures, must be provided to Health Care Professionals before they carry out patient care activities.



Micro Grants

- The selection of the voluntary Micro Grant option (cumulative federal funding of \$3,000) for eligible activities does not impact an applicant's request or federal participation under Regional projects.
- Applicants who select Micro Grants as a funding opportunity choice may still apply for a Regional project.
- At least \$150,000 of the available funds in this round will be allocated toward this applicant type.



Regional Application

- A Regional application is an opportunity for a Fire Department to act as a host and apply for funding on behalf of itself and any number of other participating AFG-S eligible organizations.
- Regional activities should achieve cost effectiveness, support regional efficiency and resilience, and benefit more than one local jurisdiction (county, parish, town, township, city, or village) directly from the activities implemented with the grant funds.



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Awards

- Rolling award notification process
- Applicant receives email from FEMA with award notification
- Applicant accepts award in FEMA GO system



Where to Apply and Find Additional Information

- FEMA GO (Application and Grant Management Page)
 - <https://go.fema.gov>
- Assistance to Firefighters Grant Programs Home Page
 - <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters>
- Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - COVID-19 Supplemental (AFG-S) Updated Notice of Funding Opportunity
 - <https://www.fema.gov/media-collection/fy-2020-assistance-firefighters-grant-program-covid-19-supplemental-afg-s>



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Any Questions?



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