

Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program Fact Sheet

The Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant Program provides funding to eligible applicants seeking to strengthen community fire prevention programs and to support scientific research on innovations that improve firefighter safety, health, and well-being.

Overview

The FP&S Grant Program is one of three grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) focus on enhancing the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. Since FY 2002, the FP&S Grant Program has awarded approximately \$888 million in grant funding to provide critically needed resources to strengthen community fire prevention programs and enable scientific research on innovations that improve firefighter safety, health, and well-being. The FP&S Grant Program will award an estimated 100 eligible fire departments, national, regional, state, local, tribal and non-profit organizations such as academic (e.g., universities), research foundations, public safety institutes, public health, occupational health, and injury prevention institutions for fire prevention programs and supporting firefighter health and safety research and development such as clinical studies that address behavioral, social science, and cultural research.

Purpose

The purpose of the FP&S Grant Program is to provide critically needed resources to fire departments and non-profit organizations to carry out fire prevention education and training, fire code enforcement, fire/arson investigation, firefighter safety and health programming, strategic national projects, prevention efforts, and research and development. Using a competitive process that is informed by fire service subject-matter experts, grants are awarded to applicants whose requests best address the narrative evaluation criteria identified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Funding

The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024 (Pub. L. No. 118-47) appropriates funding to carry out the activities of the FP&S Grant Program. The statute, 15 U.S.C. § 2229, authorized the FP&S Grant Program to make competitive awards to fire departments and national, state, local, tribal or nonprofit organizations that are not fire departments and that are recognized for their experience and expertise with respect to fire prevention or fire safety programs and activities, and firefighter research and development programs. The total amount of funding a recipient may receive under an FP&S Grant Program award is limited to a maximum federal share of \$1.5 million.



FEMA

Eligibility

The FP&S Grant Program is separated into two activities: FP&S and Research and Development (R&D).

Eligible applicants for the FP&S Activity include fire departments operating in any of the 50 states, as well as fire departments in the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any federally recognized Indian tribe or tribal organization. A fire department is an agency or organization having a formally recognized arrangement with a state, local, tribal, or territorial authority (city, county, parish, fire district, township, town, or other governing body) to provide fire suppression to a population within a geographically fixed primary first due response area. National, regional, state, local, tribal and nonprofit interest organizations that are recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention and safety programs and activities are also eligible applicants under the FP&S Activity.

Eligible applicants for the R&D Activity include national, state, local, federally recognized tribal, and non-profit organizations, such as academic (e.g., universities), research foundations, public safety institutes, public health, occupational health, and injury prevention institutions. Fire departments are not eligible to apply under the R&D Activity. Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek partnerships with the fire service that will support project efforts from design through dissemination and implementation.

Definitions

- A fire department is an agency or organization having a formally recognized arrangement with a state, local, tribal or territorial authority (city, county, parish, fire district, township, town, village, or other governing body) to provide fire suppression to a population within a geographically fixed primary first due response area.
- Interest Organizations are national, regional, state, local, tribal and non-profit entities that are recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention and safety programs.

Program Highlights

Under the FP&S Grant Program, eligible organizations may apply for grants under the following activities:

FP&S Activity

- Community Risk Reduction
 - Smoke Alarms, including addressing the needs of the disabled in the community (e.g., deaf/hard of hearing smoke alarms)
 - Sprinkler Awareness
 - Public Education
 - Training

- General Prevention/Awareness
- Risk Assessments
- Juvenile Fire Setter Projects
- Wildfire Risk Reduction
- Code Enforcement/Awareness
- Fire and Arson Investigation
- National/State/Regional Programs and Projects

R&D Activity

- Clinical Studies
- Technology and Product Development
- Early Career Investigators
- Preliminary Studies

Application Process and Evaluation Criteria

All complete and eligible applications are evaluated through a peer review panel process. Peer reviewers will assess the merits of each project within the application based on the substance of the application relative to the established funding priorities. A minimum of three peer review panelists will evaluate the applications using the Narrative Statement, answers to general questions, and answers to activity-specific questions. Each application is judged on its merits against established criteria and is not compared to other applications. The funding priorities differ for the FP&S Activity and the R&D Activity. The funding priorities and narrative evaluation criteria are developed from recommendations provided by a criteria development panel composed of fire service professionals representing the major fire service organizations.

- **FP&S Activity**
 - Projects most consistent with the established FP&S Grant Program funding priorities that score the highest and are determined to be in the “competitive range” will undergo a Technical Review by the FEMA Program Office, which will assess the request with respect to costs, quantities, feasibility, eligibility, and recipient responsibility.
- **R&D Activity**
 - Applications are first reviewed by a panel of fire service experts to assess the need for the research results and the likelihood that the results would be implemented by the fire service in the United States.

- Projects that are determined most likely to be implemented to enable improvement in firefighter safety, health, or well-being will be deemed in the “competitive range” and will be forwarded to a second level of project review, which is the scientific panel review process.

Program Coordination

The following entities were involved in developing the FP&S Grant Program funding priorities as well as developing criteria for awarding grants:

DHS

- FEMA
- U.S. Fire Administration

Major Fire Service Organizations

- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- National Volunteer Fire Council
- National Fire Protection Association
- National Association of State Fire Marshals
- International Association of Arson Investigators
- International Society of Fire Service Instructors
- North American Fire Training Directors
- Congressional Fire Services Institute

FP&S Grant Program Resources

For additional information on the FY 2023 FP&S Grant Program, please visit [Fire Prevention and Safety \(FP&S\) | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/fire-prevention-and-safety-grant-program).

You may also contact the FP&S Grant Program Help Desk at (866) 274-0960 or by e-mail at firegrants@fema.dhs.gov. The FP&S Grant Program Help Desk is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET.