

EMERGENCY SERVICES GRANTS



Firefighter and EMS Funding Opportunities



**SENATOR
PAM HELMING**
54TH SENATE DISTRICT



NEW YORK STATE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grants

The program makes funds available for rural companies for the purchase of wildland firefighting equipment such as portable backpack pumps, Monex protective clothing, hand tools, hard hats, hose, portable radios, turnout gear, personal protective equipment generators and dry hydrants.

Deadline: To be announced in 2019.

Match Requirement: Eligible fire departments may receive funding up to \$1,500 for the purchase of firefighting equipment, but departments are required to equally match the amount of the award.

Eligibility:

1. A single fire department serving in a **rural area or rural community** with a population of 10,000 or less according to the latest census.
2. Area fire departments (districts, townships, etc.) may serve an aggregate population of greater than 10,000 as long as the service area of the department includes a rural area or rural community having a population of 10,000 or less. The VFA funds must be used to benefit said rural population.
3. A single county or town with a population of over 10,000 that is served by two or more fire districts operating entirely within the bounds of the county or town may qualify as long as the service area of a given fire department includes a rural area or rural community or the population of the fire department's jurisdiction is 10,000 or less. The VFA funds must be used for the rural area.
4. A single community with a population greater than 10,000 and having a single fire department with one or more fire stations may qualify. The fire department must have a service area that includes a rural area that does not exceed 10,000. The VFA funds must only be used to benefit the rural population. A single community with a population of more than 10,000 that also provides protection to an adjoining rural community of 10,000 or less by contract may be also eligible if the funds are used only to support the rural community.

Criteria used for selection

A fire department is rated using the following points system:

1. Population (ex: less than 1,000 = 10 points; 1,000-2,000 = 9 points, and so on)
2. I.S.O. rating (ex: rating of 9 = 10 points; 5/5x = 5 points; 8 or less = 1 point)
3. Newly organized department = 10 points
4. Native American Indian community in protection area = 10 points

Additional considerations:

- a. Points will be deducted on a pro-rated basis from the total of these four factors if a grant was awarded to the fire department in the last five years.
- b. A point for use in future years will be added each year the applicant submits a VFA grant application and does not receive a grant award.
- c. Only one application per local jurisdiction will be considered.
- d. Only expenses directly related to fire suppression are eligible for funding. Grant funding cannot be applied to any single item costing \$5,000 or more.
- e. Expenditures not directly related to firefighting, such as search and rescue, acquisition of land, construction of buildings and facilities, major apparatus purchases and maintenance items are not eligible for funding.
- f. Upon notification of receiving a VFA grant award, fire departments are required to complete all grant process paperwork by November 30, 2018. This process includes: purchasing equipment, providing copies of invoices as proof of purchase, and scheduling an equipment inspection by a local NYS Forest Ranger.

Application Instructions:

The application can be found online at: https://dec.ny.gov/docs/legal_protection_pdf/vfagrantapp.pdf

By Mail:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Forest Protection
625 Broadway, 3rd Floor
Albany, NY 12233-2560

Electronic submissions:

E-mail as attachment to: vfagrant@dec.ny.gov

The New York State Emergency Services Revolving Loan Program

The NYS Emergency Services revolving Loan Account **makes loans available at an annual fixed interest rate of 2.5 percent** for cities, villages, fire districts, counties, towns and not-for-profit fire/ambulance companies.

Deadline:

None; this program is offered continuously throughout the year. Funding levels may vary throughout the year, depending on the amount of repayment money, interest accrued, and number of new loans already made during that year.

Eligible Applicants

Cities, villages, fire districts and incorporated not-for-profit fire/ambulance companies are eligible to apply. In the case of a fire protection district, towns or counties may apply subject to limitations. Applicants that are in arrears on any prior loan granted under §97-pp, or used state funds to repay all or part of any loan made under §97-pp in the prior ten years are ineligible.

Eligible Activities:

1. Firefighting apparatus

- Elevated Equipment, pumpers, tankers, ladder trucks, hazardous materials emergency response vehicles, or other such specially equipped motor vehicles used for fire protection, together with the fixtures and appointments necessary to support their functions
- **Amount:** \$375,000 or 75% of cost, whichever is less

2. Ambulances or rescue vehicles

- Motor vehicles equipped and used to support fire and emergency services operations; includes a vehicle specifically for carrying accessory equipment.
- **Amount:** \$225,000 or 75% of the cost, whichever is less.

3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and/or communications equipment

- Clothing and devices that comply with OSHA standards used to protect personnel who provide emergency services from injury; includes, but is not limited to, helmets, coats, boots, eye shields, gloves, and self-contained respiratory protection devices; voice or original transmission system or telemetry system used to enhance firefighter safety on the grounds of a fire or other emergency.
- **Amount:** Not to exceed \$200,000 for either category, individually or combined

4. Repair of firefighting apparatus, ambulances, or rescue vehicles

- **Amount:** \$200,000 or 100 percent of cost, whichever is less

5. Accessory Equipment

- Equipment necessary to support firefighting or emergency rescue activities that is not communication equipment, protective equipment, or motor vehicles.
- **Amount:** Not to exceed \$125,000

SENATOR PAM HELMING FIREFIGHTER AND EMS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

6. Renovation, rehabilitation, or repair of facilities that house firefighting equipment, ambulances, rescue vehicles, and related equipment

- **Amount:** \$250,000 or 75 percent of cost, whichever is less

7. Construction Costs of facilities that house firefighting equipment, ambulances, rescue vehicles, and related equipment

- **Amount:** \$500,000 or 75 percent of cost, whichever is less (may not be used for designs, planning, applications, or other costs not directly related to land purchase or constructions).

8. Construction costs associated with the establishment of facilities for the purpose of live fire training

- **Amount:** \$250,000 or 75 percent of cost, whichever is less.

Selection Criteria

- a. Preference is given to applicants that demonstrate the greatest need and to those that will be applied toward attaining compliance with federal and state laws
- b. Loan approvals must be equally distributed among all sectors of the emergency services community and all geographic areas of the state
- c. At least 50 percent of loans must be to applicants whose fire protection or ambulance service members are exclusively volunteers

Application Instructions

Applications are available online: <http://www.dhses.ny.gov/ofpc/services/loan/>

Once applicants fill out the appropriate application form, applications should be returned to:

NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
1220 Washington Avenue
State Office Campus, Bldg. 7A, Suite 610
Albany, NY 12242

FEDERAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)

The AFG Program allows career and volunteer fire departments, as well as other eligible organizations, opportunities to receive funding to either a) enhance a fire department's/safety organization's ability to protect the health and safety of firefighters and the public; b) assist fire prevention programs and support firefighter health and safety research and development; and c) increase or maintain the number of trained "front line" firefighters available in communities. The program is administered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and in FY2018 received \$350 Million in grant funds.

There are three grant programs offered by AFG:

1. Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)
2. Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER)
3. Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (FP&S)

Deadline: Announcement Expected in December 2018.

Matching Requirements:

Population	Matching Requirement
Less than 20,000	5%
Between 20,000 and 1 Million	10%

Eligible Entities:

1. **Fire Departments:** a fire department is an agency or organization having a formally recognized arrangement with a state, territory, local, or tribal authority to provide fire suppression to a population within a geographically fixed primary first due response area.
2. **Nonaffiliated EMS organizations:** a nonaffiliated EMS organization is an agency or organization that is a public or nonprofit emergency medical service entity providing medical transport that is not affiliated with a hospital and does not serve a geographic area in which emergency services are adequately provided by a fire department.
3. **State Fire Training Academies:** applicants must be designated either by legislation or by a Governor's declaration as the sole state fire service training agency/bureau/division, or entity within that State.

Eligible Activities:

Only certain projects are eligible for this funding. For example, construction costs are *not eligible* under this program. The following project types are eligible:

1. **Operations and Safety**
2. **Vehicle Acquisition**
3. **Regional Projects**

Selection Considerations and Evaluation Criteria:

- I. Pre-scoring relative to **AFG Grant funding priorities**
- II. Peer Review Panel evaluate applicants' **Narrative Statement** based on four elements:
 - a. Financial Need (25%)
 - b. Project Description and Budget (25%)
 - c. Operations and Safety/Cost Benefit (25%)
 - d. Statement of Effect/Impact on Daily Operations (25%)
- III. **Technical Evaluation Process (TEP)**

Application Instructions:

****Before applying for Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants, applicants must have a Data Universal Number System (DUNS Number) and must be registered in System for Award Management (SAM).** In order to obtain a DUNS number, instructions can be found at:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-1-obtain-duns-number.html>

System for Award Management (SAM) registration instructions are here:

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html>

Note: Please allow plenty of time before the grant application submission deadline to obtain a DUNS number and then to register in SAM. It may take four weeks or more after the applicant submits the SAM registration before the registration is active in SAM, then an additional 24 hours for Grants.gov to recognize the information.

Guidance for each application can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>

All applications are online forms that can be accessed at: <https://www.grants.gov/>

Note: If applicants experience any difficulties accessing the online form or have any questions, the Grants.gov Contact Center can be reached at (800) 518-4726

Grant Limits:

There are limits to how much an applicant can receive based on population. For a full description of AFG grants, requirements and limitations, please visit: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1515081517499-e26f234398e048e897410250055c916e/NOFO1.3.18.pdf>

The AFG Help Desk can be contacted at (866) 274-0960 or by email at FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov.

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants

The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the NFPA (NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720).

Deadline: Announcement Expected in March 2019 with April 2019 deadline.

Matching Requirements:

There is *no* matching requirement for SAFER Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters. However, there is a requirement for SAFER Hiring of Firefighters. In the first and second years of the grant, the Federal funds *cannot exceed 75% of the actual costs incurred*, and during the third year of the grant, *cannot exceed 35% of actual incurred costs*. This means fire departments are responsible for at least 25% of the funding the first and second years, and at least 65% of the funds in the third year.

Eligible Activities:

Activity Type	Eligible Organizations	Ineligible Organizations
Hiring of Firefighters	Volunteer, Combination and Career Fire Departments	National, state local, or federally recognized tribal organizations representing the interests of volunteer firefighters
Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters	Volunteer and combination fire departments and National, state, local or federally recognized tribal organizations representing the interests of volunteer firefighters	Career Fire Departments

Selection Criteria:

- I. Pre-scoring relative to **SAFER Grant funding priorities**
- II. Peer Review Panel evaluate applicants' **Narrative Statement** based on four elements:
 1. Project Description (30%)
 2. Impact on Daily Operations (30%)
 3. Financial Need (30%)
 4. Cost Benefit (10%)
- III. **Technical Evaluation Process (TEP)**

Application Instructions

****Before applying for Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants, applicants must have a Data Universal Number System (DUNS Number) and must be registered in System for Award Management (SAM).** In order to obtain a DUNS number, instructions can be found at:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-1-obtain-duns-number.html>

System for Award Management (SAM) registration instructions are here:

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html>

Note: Please allow plenty of time before the grant application submission deadline to obtain a DUNS number and then to register in SAM. It may take four weeks or more after the applicant submits the SAM registration before the registration is active in SAM, then an additional 24 hours for Grants.gov to recognize the information.

Guidance for each application can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>

All applications are online forms that can be accessed at: <https://www.grants.gov/>

Note: If applicants experience any difficulties accessing the online form or have any questions, the Grants.gov Contact Center can be reached at (800) 518-4726.

Fire Prevention and Safety Grants

The Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grants are part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) and support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. The primary goal is to reduce injury and prevent death among high-risk populations. In 2005, Congress reauthorized funding for FP&S and expanded the eligible uses of funds to include Firefighter Safety Research and Development.

There are two types of grants available under the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants:

1. Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S)

- a. FP&S Projects are designed to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate the incidence of death and injuries caused by fire and fire-related hazards.

2. Firefighter Safety Research and Development (R&D)

- a. R&D Projects are aimed at improving firefighter safety, health, or wellness through research and development that reduces firefighter fatalities and injuries.

Deadline: Announcement expected in January 2018 with March 2019 deadline.

Eligible Activities

Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Eligible Activities include:

1. Community Risk Reduction
2. Code Enforcement/Awareness
3. Fire and Arson Investigation
4. National/State/Regional Programs and Studies

Firefighter Safety Research and Development (R&D) Eligible Activities include:

1. Clinical Studies
2. Technology and Product Development
3. Database System Development
4. Dissemination and Implementation Research
5. Preliminary Studies
6. Early Career Investigator

Matching Requirements:

1. **FP&S:** No less than 5% of grant awarded
2. **R&D:** No Matching Requirement

Eligible Applicants

FP&S: Fire departments and national, regional, local, federally recognized tribal, and both public and private **non-profit organizations** that are recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention and safety programs and activities. **Not eligible:** For-profit organizations, federal agencies and individuals.

R&D: National, state, local, federally recognized tribal, and public and private **non-profit organizations**, such as academic (e.g., universities), public health, occupational health, and injury prevention institutions.

SENATOR PAM HELMING FIREFIGHTER AND EMS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Not eligible: Fire departments, for-profit organizations, federal agencies and individuals.

Selection Criteria

- I. Pre-scoring relative to **FP&S Grant funding priorities**
- II. Peer Review Panel evaluate applicants' **Narrative Statement** based on several categories:

FP&S	R&D Fire Service Panel
Financial Need (10%) Vulnerability Statement (25%) Implementation Plan (25%) Evaluation Plan (25%) Cost Benefit (10%) Funding Priorities (5%)	Purpose (25%) Implementation by Fire Service (25%) Potential Impact (15%) Barriers (15%) Partners (20%)
	R&D Science Panel Review
	Project Goals, Objectives and Specific Aims (15%) Literature Review (10%) Project Methods (20%) Project Measurements (20%) Project Analysis (20%) Dissemination and Implementation (15%) Cost vs. Benefit & Financial Need (additional consideration)

- III. **Technical Evaluation Process (TEP)**

Application Instructions:

****Before applying for Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants, applicants must have a Data Universal Number System (DUNS Number) and must be registered in System for Award Management (SAM).** In order to obtain a DUNS number, instructions can be found at:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-1-obtain-duns-number.html>

System for Award Management (SAM) registration instructions are here:

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html>

Note: Please allow plenty of time before the grant application submission deadline to obtain a DUNS number and then to register in SAM. It may take four weeks or more after the applicant submits the SAM registration before the registration is active in SAM, then an additional 24 hours for Grants.gov to recognize the information.

The online FY 2018 FP&S Grant Program application will be available through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program's (AFGP) eGrants system application portal at <https://portal.fema.gov/>.

Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

The Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant program is administered by the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development office. The program is intended to provide affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as the following: *a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings.*

Deadline: This program accepts applications year round.

Matching Responsibilities:

Loans

Each applicant has different characteristics and demonstrated need. In order to determine if you qualify for the low interest direct loan, the grant program, or a combination with the loan guarantee program, contact your nearest New York State USDA Rural Development office. Contact information provided on the next page.

Grants

Grant applicants are responsible for matching a minimum portion of the projects cost based on population and median household income.

Population	Median Household Income	Matching Requirement
5,000 or less	Less than 60% of the State metropolitan median household income	25%
12,000 or less	Less than 70% of the State nonmetropolitan median household income	45%
20,000 or less	Less than 80% of the State nonmetropolitan median household income	65%
20,000 or less	Less than 90% of the State nonmetropolitan median household income	85%

Eligible borrowers include public bodies, community-based non-profit corporations, and federally recognized Tribes, with populations of 20,000 residents or less.

Eligible applicants must:

1. Have legal authority to borrow money, obtain security, repay loans, construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities
2. Be unable to finance the project with their own resources or through commercial credit at reasonable rates and terms
3. Serve rural areas where they are/will be located
4. Demonstrate substantial community support
5. Complete an acceptable environmental review

SENATOR PAM HELMING FIREFIGHTER AND EMS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Eligible Activities:

Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses. Examples include health care facilities, street improvements, fire departments, fire trucks, fire equipment and more.

Selection

All rural areas are eligible to apply and will be considered. *Priority is given to small communities with populations of 5,500 or less and low income communities having a median household income below 80% of the state nonmetropolitan median household income.*

Application

In order to apply, **please contact a Rural Development Office**. There is a New York State office located in Syracuse, and 10 service centers across the state all serving different counties. Please see the below chart to determine which center is right for you. The service centers and their staff are there to help you, and you are strongly encouraged to remain in contact with them throughout the application process and to determine if you are eligible.

Canandaigua Service Center 3037 County Road 10 Canandaigua, NY 14424 Voice: (585) 394-0525, ext. 4 Fax: (855) 558-7583 <i>Counties served:</i> Wayne, Seneca, Ontario, Yates, Livingston, Monroe	USDA Rural Development New York State Office 441 S. Salina St, Suite 357 Syracuse, NY 13202 Main Telephone Number: (315) 477-6400 TDD/Voice Number: 711 TTY/TDD Only: 315.477.6447	Cortland Service Center 1 North Main Street, 2nd Floor Cortland, NY 13045 Voice: (607) 753-0851, ext. 4 Fax: (607) 753-3190 <i>Counties served:</i> Onondaga, Tompkins, Cortland, Chenango, Tioga, Broome, Cayuga
---	---	---

****Applicants must have a Data Universal Number System (DUNS Number) and must be registered in System for Award Management (SAM).** In order to obtain a DUNS number, instructions can be found at:
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-1-obtain-duns-number.html>

System for Award Management (SAM) registration instructions are here:
<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html>

Note: Please allow plenty of time before the grant application submission deadline to obtain a DUNS number and then to register in SAM. It may take four weeks or more after the applicant submits the SAM registration before the registration is active in SAM, then an additional 24 hours for Grants.gov to recognize the information.



Senator Pam Helming

54th Senate District

Albany Office:

946 Legislative Office Bldg
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: (518) 455-2366
Fax: (518) 426-6953

District Office:

425 Exchange Street
Geneva, NY 14456
Phone: (315) 568-9816
Fax: (315) 789-1946

Satellite Office:

Wayne County Court House
26 Church St., Room 207
Lyons, NY 14489
(315) 946-6380

E-Mail: helming@nysenate.gov

Website: helming.nysenate.gov

