

FY2013 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM (AFG) FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT (FOA)

OVERVIEW INFORMATION

Issued By

US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),
Grants Program Directorate (GPD)

Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number

97.044

CFDA Title

Assistance to Firefighters Grants

Funding Opportunity Announcement Title

Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)

Authorizing Authority for Program

Section 33 of the *Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974*, Public Law 93-498, as amended
(15 U.S.C. § 2229)

Appropriation Authority for Program

Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2013, Public Law 113-6

FOA Number

DHS-13-GPD-044-000-99

Key Dates and Time

Application Start Date:	11/4/2013 at 8:00 AM EST
Application Submission Deadline Date:	12/6/2013 at 5:00 PM EST
Anticipated Funding Selection Date:	2/3/2014
Anticipated Award Date:	2/10/2014

Other Key Dates

N/A

Intergovernmental Review

Is an intergovernmental review required? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Application Submission Extension

Is an extension to the application submission deadline permitted? ☐ Yes ☒ No

FOA EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program Type

Select the applicable program type:

☐ New ☒ Continuation ☐ One-time

Date of origin for Program

10/30/2000

Funding Opportunity Category

Select the applicable opportunity category:

☒ Discretionary ☐ Mandatory ☒ Competitive ☐ Non-competitive

Application Process

DHS makes all funding opportunities available through the common electronic “storefront” Grants.gov, accessible on the Internet at <http://www.grants.gov>. If you experience difficulties accessing information or have any questions, please call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at (800) 518-4726.

AFG Application Home Page

Links to the [AFG Application portal](#) are available via [Grants.gov](#), the [US Fire Administration](#), or the [AFG Web site](#).

For additional details, please see Section X of the full FOA, page 18.

Eligible Applicants

The following entities are eligible to apply directly to FEMA under this solicitation:

☒ Fire Department ☒ Nonaffiliated EMS organization ☒ State Fire Training Academy

For additional details, please see Section III of this FOA, *Eligibility Information*, page 6.

Type of Funding Instrument

Select the applicable funding instrument:

☒ Grant ☐ Cooperative Agreement

Cost Share or Match

Select the applicable requirement:

☒ Cost Share ☐ Cost Match ☐ Voluntary

NOTE: Grantee cost sharing, unless modified by waiver, shall be either 5%, 10%, or 15% and shall be based on the population of the jurisdiction(s) served by the applicant(s). For additional details, please see Appendix C, A. Cost Sharing, 2. Economic Hardship Waivers, page 61.

Maintenance of Effort

Is there a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement?

☒ Yes ☐ No

An applicant seeking an AFG Grant shall agree to maintain during the term of the grant the applicant's aggregate expenditures relating to activities allowable under this FOA at not less than 80 percent (80%) of the average amount of such expenditures in the two (2) fiscal years preceding the fiscal year in which the grant amounts are received. For additional details, please see Appendix C, A. Cost Sharing, 1. Maintenance of Effort, page 61.

Management and Administration

No more than three percent (3%) of AFG Funds awarded may be retained by the grantee and any funds retained are to be used solely for management and administration (M&A) purposes associated with the AFG Award. For additional details, please see Appendix C, B. Other Allowable Costs, 1. Administrative Costs, Management and Administration, page 61.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs are allowable only if the applicant has an approved indirect cost rate with the cognizant federal agency. A copy of the approved rate (a fully executed, agreement negotiated with the applicant's cognizant federal agency) is required at the time of application. Indirect costs will be evaluated as part of the application for federal funds to determine if allowable and reasonable.

For additional details, please see Appendix C, B. Other Allowable Costs, 1. Administrative Costs and 2. Indirect Costs, page 61.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Program Overview and Priorities

FY 2013 AFG is a suite of competitive discretionary grants comprised of three (3) interconnected component programs (Operations and Safety, Vehicle Acquisition, and Joint/Regional) for awarding direct financial assistance to fire departments, nonaffiliated EMS organizations, and state fire training academies.

Criteria Development Panel (CDP)

FEMA annually convenes the Criteria Development Panel (CDP), a panel of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) representing major fire service organizations, which is responsible for recommending fair and consistent application criteria and program priorities to FEMA.

For additional details, please see Appendix B, 1. Criteria Development Panel (CDP), page 25.

Community Classification

FEMA has determined that due to the inherent differences among urban, suburban, and rural communities, priority rankings of **High** , **Medium** , or **Low**  will be assigned to eligible AFG Program Activities within each community, based on community type.

For additional details, please see Appendix B, 8. Community Classifications, page 31

Program Objectives

- The **objective** of the FY 2013 AFG Program is to award grants directly to fire departments, nonaffiliated EMS organizations, and state fire training academies for critically needed resources to protect the public, to train emergency personnel, and to foster interoperability and support community resilience.
- The **purpose** of the AFG Program is to enhance through direct financial assistance, the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel and to provide a continuum of support for emergency responders regarding fire, medical, and all hazard events.

For additional details, please see Appendix B, 2. AFG Programs and Eligible Activities, page 25

- FY 2013 AFG Programs play an important role in the implementation of the *National Preparedness System (NPS)* by supporting the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities essential to achieving the *National Preparedness Goal (NPG)* of a secure and resilient Nation. Delivering core capabilities requires the combined effort of the whole community, rather than the exclusive effort of any single organization or level of government.

- FY 2013 AFG Program's allowable costs support the efforts to build and sustain core capabilities across the Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery mission areas.

Examples of tangible outcomes from FY 2013 AFG Programs include building, sustaining, and delivering core capabilities through:

- Planning
- Public Information and Warning
- Operational Coordination
- Community Resilience
- Long Term Vulnerability Reduction
- Environmental Response/Health and Safety
- Infrastructure Systems
- Mass Search and Rescue Operations

For additional details, please see: "National Preparedness Goal, First Edition, September 2011" at <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/prepared/npg.pdf>.

II. **Funding Information**

Award Amounts, Important Dates, and Extensions

Available Funding for the FOA: \$288,828,075¹

Projected Award Start Date(s): 02/10/2014

Projected Award End Date(s): 08/31/2014

Period of Performance: 12 months from the date of award²

Grantees will be notified via email as well as through the AFG e-grants system of the offer of a grant award. Grantees must accept their grant awards no later than 30 days from the award date. The grantee shall notify the awarding agency of its intent to accept and proceed with work under the award, or provide a written notice of intent to decline. Funds will remain on hold (for a maximum of 90 days) until the grantee accepts the award through official correspondence (e.g., written, electronic signature, signed letter, or fax) to the Grant Programs Directorate and all other conditions of award have been satisfied, or the award is otherwise rescinded.

¹ Note that this figure is the amount appropriated under the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6) - \$320,920,083 – less 10 percent of that funding set aside for the FY 2013 Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant Program FOA. In the FY 2013 AFG FOA, percentages of "available grant funds" refer to the total amount appropriated - \$320,920,083 – by PL 113-6 to meet the requirements of § 33 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, Public Law 93-498, as amended (15 U.S.C. § 2229).

² AFG Grants are awarded on a rolling basis

NOTE: Failure to accept the grant award within the 90 day timeframe may result in a loss of funds.

For additional details, please see Appendix A, page 22.

Period of Performance

The period of performance is 12 months from the date of award.

Is an extension to the period of performance permitted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Extensions to the period of performance will only be considered through formal requests to FEMA with specific and compelling justification as to why an extension is required. Extensions are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Agencies should request extensions sparingly and expect extensions to be granted only under exceptional circumstances.

For additional details, please see Appendix C, A. Cost Sharing, page 60.

III. Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants

- Fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations (as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 2229(a)(7)), operating in any of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the US Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any federally recognized Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or an Alaskan native village, Alaska Regional Native Corporation, or the Alaska Village Initiatives, and;
- Any State Fire Training Academy operating in any of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the US Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. A listing of eligible state fire training academy organizations and institutions can be found at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/pocs/>.

For more details on Eligible Applicants please see: Appendix B, 3. Eligible/Ineligible Applicants, page 26.

NOTES:

No organization eligible to apply for and receive a grant *shall be required* to meet any training requirement or attain any performance standard as a prerequisite for that eligible organization to submit an application to any AFG Program. For more information on entities that qualify as an eligible applicant and additional details, please see Appendix B, 3. Eligible/Ineligible Applicants, page 26.

- FEMA considers two or more separate fire departments, or two or more nonaffiliated EMS organizations sharing facilities as being one organization. This

determination is designed to avoid duplication of benefits. If two or more organizations share facilities and each submits an application in the same program area, FEMA may deem all of those program area applications ineligible.

- Fire-based EMS organizations are *not* eligible to apply as a nonaffiliated EMS organization. Fire-based EMS training and equipment must be applied for as a Fire department under the AFG component program Operations and Safety.

IV. Funding Restrictions

Restrictions on Use of Award Funds

DHS grant funds shall only be used for the purpose set forth in the grant, and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Grant funds shall not be used for matching funds for other federal grants/cooperative agreements, lobbying, or intervention in federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, federal funds shall not be used to sue the Federal Government or any other government entity.

NOTE:

- Pre-award costs (incurred after the application deadline, but prior to award), *may* be eligible for reimbursement if the expenses were justified, unavoidable, and consistent with the grant's scope of work. Requests for pre-award costs must be made via a Scope of Work Statement to the AFG Program Office using the on-line e-Grant management system. All pre-award costs will be decided on a case-by-case basis.
- Applicants may submit more than one (1) application, but no more than one (1) application for each AFG Component Program (i.e., Operations and Safety, Vehicle Acquisition, or Joint/Regional). If more than one program application advances to award, the applicant cannot receive total award funding that exceeds the funding allocation cap. For additional details, please see Appendix A. 3. Available Grant Funds by Population, page 23. Any Applicant that submits more than one (1) application for the same component program, and requests the same activities may have *all* applications for any duplicated request(s) *deemed ineligible*.
- Applicants for Joint/Regional Projects will be subject to the limitations based on the total population the regional project will serve and that award *will not* be included in the host organization's funding limitations. For additional details, please see Appendix A. 3. Available Grant Funds by Population, page 23.
- Federal employees are prohibited from serving in any capacity (paid or unpaid) on any proposal submitted under this program. Federal employees may not receive funds under any AFG Award.

For additional details, please see Appendix B, 4. Restrictions on Use of Award Funds, page 29.