Welcome to the NVFC’s Train Strong Webinar Series.

Today’s webinar is “Grants Program Update: What’s Changing and What Do I Need to Know.”
The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is the leading nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. The NVFC serves as the voice of the volunteer in the national arena and provides invaluable resources, programs, education, and advocacy for first responders across the nation.
MEMBERSHIP

Have a voice in advocating for volunteer fire and emergency services nationwide and locally.

Up your skills through free training, educational scholarships, and giveaways.

Grow your fire family by connecting with fire service volunteers in your area and across the country.

Look after your loved ones with a $10,000 AD&D insurance policy.

Know you’re backed by the top organization fighting for the volunteer fire and emergency services.

Become a member for only $18 a year. Join today at NVFC.org/Join
Presenter

David Lewis

NVFC’s Maryland Director
Assistance to Firefighters Grant Programs

- **Assistance to Firefighters Grants**: $315 M
- **Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response**: $350 M
- **Fire Prevention and Safety Grants**: $35 M
- **AFG COVID-19 Supplemental (FY20)**: $100 M

NEW
Funding Allocations (AFG)

$350 M

25% 25% 25% 10%
VOLUNTEER COMBINATION CAREER OPEN

Non-Aff EMS 2%
SFTA 3%

10%
FP&S
Status – AFG, SAFER, FP&S

• FY-2019 – application period has closed
  – All applications (AFG, SAFER, FP&S) have been reviewed
  – AFG awards are being released in weekly batches

• FY-2020
  – Funding for AFG and SAFER increased to $355M
  – AFG, SAFER, and FP&S application period will open this fall??
How Many Applied?

- **Assistance to Firefighters Grant (FY-2019)**
  - All volunteer 4,275 ↑ $770.6M
  - Combination / Mostly volunteer 1,715 ↓ $449.6M
  - Combination / Mostly career 866 ↓ $239.0M
  - All career 1,482 ↓ $493.0M
  - State Fire Training Academies 36 - $12.3M

8,374 applications requesting $1,964,500,000 (Available $315,000,000)
Status – COVID Supplemental (AFG-S)

• FY-2020 (AFG-S)
  – CARES Appropriation ($100M) for PPE acquisition for COVID response
  – Applications received and reviewed
  – Awards are being released in weekly batches
  – Insufficient number of applications from Volunteer and Combination departments to expend the funding
  – Additional application period for Volunteer and Combination departments anticipated for October 2020
## How Many Applied?

### Assistance to Firefighters Grant Supplemental (FY-2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All volunteer</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>$6.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>$26.0M</td>
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<tr>
<td>All career</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>$74.1M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-affiliated EMS</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>$5.9M</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Fire Training Academies</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$1.7M</td>
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Second Application Period for AFG-COVID-19 Supplemental (AFG-S)

• **When? This fall (possibly October)**
  - Open only for *volunteer* and *combination* fire departments
  - Approximately $33M available in unawarded funding
  - Uses same application processes as AFG
  - Funding for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other supplies to support COVID-19 response.
Why Are Only Volunteer and Combination Fire Departments Eligible?

- By law, 25 percent of available AFG-S funds must be awarded to volunteer fire departments and another 25 percent must be awarded to combination fire departments.
- These department categories were under-requested in the first application period.
- This second application period will be limited to those categories of fire departments to fulfill this requirement.
AFG-S : Can I Apply Again?

- Volunteer and combination fire departments are eligible to apply in this round even if they had a successful application in the first round.
- However, applications must support new capabilities.
- Departments that applied in the first round but were unsuccessful must reapply to be considered for funding in this round.
- Applications from the first round will not automatically carry forward to this round for consideration.
- By late September, you will have received either an award or a turndown notice.
PPE Definition

- Eye protection – goggles or single use face shields
- Isolation gowns – single use, disposable
- Protective coveralls
- Gloves – single use, disposable
- Footwear covers – single use, disposable
- Respirators – N95 or higher, includes filters as needed
- Surgical type face masks – single use, disposable
Other Eligible Supplies

- Decontamination supplies and services for PPE, station quarters, and vehicles
- Replacement high-efficiency particulate air filters used on EMS respiratory and/or ventilator equipment
- Personally used antiseptic hand washes, antiseptic hand rubs such as alcohol-based hand sanitizers, foams or gels, and reasonable refill supply

See NOFO for additional information
Does NOT Include

- Structural firefighting PPE
- SCBA
- Fit testing equipment
- Thermometers
- Medications / COVID test kits
- Barriers or materials to build them
- Fixed decontamination equipment
Funding Priorities

1. Reimbursement for PPE and supplies purchased since January 1, 2020

2. Purchase of PPE and supplies for immediate use

3. Purchase of PPE and supplies to meet future response capabilities
Additional Considerations

• Applicants must certify that all grant-funded PPE will only be used by sufficiently trained personnel.

• Applicants must certify that when using PPE optimization strategies, training on PPE use, including proper donning and doffing procedures, must be provided to personnel before they carry out patient care activities.
Micro-Grants and Regional Grants

• AFG-S has a set aside of $150,000 for Micro Grants
  – Maximum award is $3,000

• Regional applications
  – Regional activities achieve cost effectiveness, support regional efficiency and resilience, and benefit more than one local jurisdiction.
  – For the second application period, the host company of the regional application must be an all-volunteer or combination department
Moving Forward ➔

- AFG, SAFER, and FP&S application period will open this fall.
- The time to get ready is now !!!
Why Departments Don’t Apply?

• Don’t know about the grant programs
• Overwhelmed by processes (i.e. DUNS, SAM, FEMA GO, Application complexity).
• Frustrated over previous turndowns
• Delay between application and notice of award/turndown
• Lazy
Overcoming the Hurdles

• DUNS
• SAM
  – CAGE Codes
• FEMA GO
• Application too complicated
• Peer Review
What is a DUNS Number?

• The Dun & Bradstreet D-U-N-S Number is a unique nine-digit identifier for businesses.

• D-U-N-S, which stands for data universal numbering system, is used to maintain up-to-date and timely information on more than 330 million global businesses.

• The D-U-N-S Number is used around the world to identify and access information on businesses.
How Do I Get a DUNS Number?

• D-U-N-S number assignment is FREE for all businesses required to register with the U.S. federal government for contracts or grants.

• To acquire a DUNS number, go to the web page: https://fedgov.dnb.com/

• Beware of offers to acquire a DUNS and SAM registration for you. You can/should do it yourself.
Who is SAM and Why Do I Care?

• The System for Award Management (SAM) is an official website of the U.S. government.

• You use SAM to do business with the U.S. government.

• You must have an ACTIVE registration in SAM to be receive any federal grant award.

• SAM registration must be renewed/updated annually.
What is a CAGE Code?

• A Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code is obtained by completing a System For Award Management Registration (SAM) and necessary to receive any type of payment from the federal government.

• The CAGE Code is a unique identifier assigned to suppliers to various government or defense agencies, as well as to government agencies themselves and various organizations. CAGE Codes provide a standardized method of identifying a given facility at a specific location.
The Grants Management Modernization (GMM) Program, is a FEMA-wide initiative that began in 2015 to modernize and consolidate existing FEMA grants management systems and business processes into one single IT Platform and one common grants management life cycle to better support the agency’s mission.
FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) is the new grants management system that will support FEMA grants programs. The system allows users to apply, track, and manage all disaster and non-disaster grants. It also improves oversight and monitoring.
The Transition to FEMA GO

• FY 2019 AFG, SAFER, FP&S grants and beyond grant applications and grant administration will be accepted and managed in FEMA GO.

• AFG, SAFER, FP&S grants for FY 2018 grants and prior grants will continue to be managed in the FEMA eGrant portal.
It All Starts with DUNS and SAM

• To register your organization in FEMA GO and apply for a grant, you must have:

  1. Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number
  2. Record in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov)
Welcome to FEMA Grants Outcomes!

Grants Outcomes (GO) is FEMA's new platform for submitting, approving, and managing FEMA grants.

Log in

Email

Password

Log in

Create an account

FEMA employees

Insert your PIV card into your smart card reader

Log in with your PIV card
Who Can Register with FEMA GO?

• Any department member may request an account in FEMA GO.

• The eBiz Point of Contact (designated in SAM) must establish an account in FEMA GO. You must use the same email address as used in SAM.

• The eBiz POC must designate the user as an “Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)”.

• User accounts are NOT to be shared.
Hello, David!

Welcome to FEMA’s new grant system!
Grants Outcomes (GO) will support applying for, managing, and closing your FEMA grants. As the system is developed, more features and grant programs will be available, so check back often.

My grants
Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)
Grant ID: EMW-2016-FF-00001
View application

Add Your Organization
To add an organization, you must:
• Be the eBiz point of contact for your organization in SAFER
• Enter your DUNS number below
You can use the DUNS Number lookup tool to find your DUNS number, or the DUNS Request Service to request a new DUNS Number:
Enter your DUNS number

Odenton Volunteer Fire Co

Apply for a new grant
Applications currently available to you
fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grants application
Application period: 11/19/2019 - 04/15/2021
Start application
fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Prevention and Safety (P&S) application
Start application

Manage Organization
What Can I Do in FEMA GO?

- The FEMA GO is relatively new and new features are being developed.

- Currently, grantees can:
  - Manage their organization’s profile.
  - Submit new applications.
  - View their grant award documentation.
  - Submit payment requests in FEMA GO.
What Can’t I Do in FEMA GO?

• Grantees cannot submit performance or financial (SF-425) reports in FEMA GO, though these features will be added at a later date.

• While the grant amendment module is available in FEMA GO, it is not fully functional and submitting an amendment request through FEMA GO may delay your ability to request funds.
Reimbursement Requests

• You may submit a reimbursement request through FEMA GO.
• Reimbursement requests may require that you download copies of invoices and receipts (in place of previous desk reviews).
• If you have a pending amendment request, you will not be able to receive reimbursement funding.
• What to do if you have submitted a reimbursement request through FEMA GO but haven’t heard anything from FEMA or received the money.
  – Contact the Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 or email at firegrants@fema.dhs.gov.
Grant Amendment Request

• At this time, all grantees are advised to NOT submit an amendment request through FEMA GO as it may delay your ability to request funds.

• If you need to submit a grant amendment request, please contact your Grant Specialist or the Help Desk who can assist grantees with grant amendment requests on a case-by-case basis.
Program Performance Reports

• The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) requires periodic program performance reports from each grant recipient.

• The module for submitting performance reports has not been released in FEMA GO yet.
  – Grantees are advised to develop performance reports in a word processing document and save it in your files so that you are ready to submit it when FEMA GO is ready to accept it.
  – Please refer to the NOFO for your type of grant for more information about reporting schedule and for specific performance metrics that must be included in this reporting.
Federal Financial Report (SF-425)

• Grant recipients are required to submit a semi-annual Federal Financial (SF-425) Report.

• The module for submitting Federal Financial Reports has not been released in FEMA GO yet.
  – Grantees are advised to familiarize themselves with the Federal Financial Report SF-425 form (https://www.grants.gov/forms/post-award-reporting-forms.html) and be prepared to submit a cumulative SF-425 financial report when this module become available in FEMA GO.
Frequently Asked Question

• Q: Will I be penalized for not submitting required grant reports that FEMA is unable to receive?

• A: Grantees will not be penalized for failing to submit required grant reports while FEMA is unable to accept them. However, grant reports will still be required to be submitted when FEMA is able to accept them.
Records Maintenance

- Grantees may be subject to periodic monitoring by FEMA to ensure compliance with federal and state laws, regulations, and guidance.

- Grantees are strongly advised to maintain accurate grant files including detailed financial records, reports, and more.

- Examples of items to be retained may include:
  - Accounting policies
  - Procurement policies (including ethics statement for employees involved in procurement policy)
  - Audit reports
  - Budget reports
  - Evidence of financial tracking (chart of accounts, general ledger, spreadsheets, list of items purchased, etc.)
  - Evidence of NFIRS reporting
  - Evidence of equipment or property tracking
  - Specifications
  - Solicitations
  - Sole Source Justifications (if applicable)
  - Competitive quotes or proposals
  - Basic for selection decisions
  - Purchase orders
  - Contracts/leases
  - Invoices/receipts
  - Payroll records (timesheets, position descriptions, org chart, payroll registers)
  - Cancelled checks
  - Performance Reports (incorporating any metrics outlined in the NOFO)
  - Federal Financial Reports (SF-425)

* Records must be maintained for 3 years from the date of the final Federal Financial Report (FFR-SF-425)
Frequently Asked Question

• Q: I’m having trouble with FEMA GO, what should I do?

• A: Contact the Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 or by email firegrants@fema.dhs.gov.
  – Contact information for all AFG technical assistance resources, including Regional Fire Program Specialists, can be accessed here.
Modifications to FY 2018 AFG Awards

- Information Bulletin (IB) No. 452, dated August 4, 2020, modifies the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program reporting, period of performance, and amendment requirements contained in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) acknowledges the delays in the successful deployment of grants management functionality for reporting and amendments via the FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) system.

- In response, FEMA is providing a one-time, 12-month extension to all FY 2018 AFG awards. Further, FEMA is delaying the timelines for required performance reports.
Automatic Extension of FY2018 AFG

• FY 2018 AFG recipients will not need to request an amendment to receive this one-time, 12-month extension to their period of performance.

• FEMA will automatically provide the extension to the current end of the period of performance listed within all grant awards.

• All recipients will be notified with amended award documentation for their files.
Delay of Reporting Requirements

• Although FY 2018 AFG recipients are still required to submit the Federal Financial Report (SF-425) and performance reports, that requirement is deferred until the FEMA GO system functionality has been successfully deployed.

• Recipients will be provided with a timeline for submission of these reports as soon as it is available.
Questions on IB-452

• Any questions regarding this IB may be directed to your AFG Preparedness Officer (PO) or the AFG Help Desk at firegrants@fema.dhs.gov or (866) 274-0960, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET.
Frequently Asked Questions

• NVFC has prepared a summary of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

• Access the summary at:
For Additional Information

- AFG Home Page: www.fema.gov/firegrants
- AFG Help Desk E-mail: firegrants@fema.dhs.gov
- AFG Help Desk Telephone Toll-Free: 1-866-274-0960
Q&A SESSION
POST WEBINAR THOUGHTS OR QUESTIONS?

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

#CANCER
#FUNDING
#TRAINING
#RECRUITMENT
#SAFETY
#RETENTION

VISIT VOLUNTEEROICES.NVFC.ORG
Thank You!

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