

EMERGENCY SERVICES GRANTS



Firefighter and EMS Funding Opportunities



**SENATOR
PAM HELMING**
54TH SENATE DISTRICT



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR
PAMELA A. HELMING
54TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES

FINANCE

RULES

AGRICULTURE

CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM,
PARKS AND RECREATION

HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

**CHAIR OF THE
MINORITY CONFERENCE**

**RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
INSURANCE**

MEMBER
LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON RURAL
RESOURCES

Dear First Responders,

Thank you for your service and for all that you do to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the people you serve. Whether responding to emergencies, providing lifesaving care, educating the public, or helping prevent crises before they occur, your commitment and dedication make a difference every day.

My 2026 Grant Guide for First Responders is intended to help connect our local fire departments, ambulance services, and other emergency response organizations with funding opportunities.

Each grant listing in this guide includes a brief description of the program, eligibility information, application deadlines, and a link to additional resources. The information contained in this guide is current as of the publication date.

My office will continue to monitor available funding opportunities and share information about new grants as they become available. To help ensure your organization receives these updates, please keep us informed of any changes to your contact information, including mailing and email addresses.

Should your organization decide to pursue a grant, let me know if you would like a letter of support to accompany your application. A few days' notice is always appreciated, but I will do my best to accommodate your request whenever possible.

If you have questions about any of the programs included in this guide, or if my office can be of assistance in any way, please contact me at helming@nysenate.gov or call 315-568-9816.

Thank you again for your dedication, commitment, and service. Please know how much I truly appreciate all that you and your team do for our communities.

With appreciation and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam".

Pamela A. Helming
New York State Senator, 54th District

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EMERGENCY SERVICES GRANTS

*Firefighter and EMS
Funding Opportunities*



PAM HELMING
54TH SENATE DISTRICT

NEW YORK STATE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grants

***According to 2025 VFA Grant Information**

DEADLINE

TBD; to monitor application availability, visit:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/public-safety/volunteer-fire-assistance-grants>

Allowable Costs

Funding cannot be applied to individual items greater than \$9,999.

Grant funding must be used to purchase eligible wildland firefighter supplies. Eligible items include protective fire clothing and PPE, modern communications supplies for more effective action on incidents, firefighting supplies such as nozzles and hoses, tools and other smaller-scale supplies, and water delivery systems such as cisterns, dry hydrants, etc. (including installation).

Expenditures not directly related to firefighting, such as search and rescue supplies, acquisition of land, construction of buildings and facilities, major apparatus purchases, and maintenance items (gas/gas cans, oil, bar chain oil, etc.) are not eligible for funding.

Eligible Equipment List

https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2025-11/vfc_eligibleequipmentlist.pdf

Program Funding

The Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant (VFC) program was created to improve the capability of fire departments in rural areas and rural communities by making funds available for the purchase of wildland firefighting suppression supplies. The Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant program is funded by the U.S. Forest Service and administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Fire departments eligible to apply may receive grant funding up to \$3,500 for the purchase of wildland firefighting supplies. The grant is a 50/50 matching funds program, which means that fire departments are required to equally match the amount of the grant award. As an example, a fire department would have to spend \$7,000 on the purchase of approved firefighting supplies, to be reimbursed an equal grant amount of \$3,500. New York State was named as a grant recipient of \$826,990 for the 2024 federal fiscal year.

Eligible Applicants

A fire department which is comprised of at least 80% volunteer personnel and provides wildland fire protection to a rural area within its jurisdiction may apply for the VFC grant. *Rural refers to a village/town with a population of less than 10,000 (based on 2020 Census data). The grant funding must be used to directly benefit the rural community that the applicant department serves.

The New York State Emergency Services Revolving Loan Program

DEADLINE

Rolling

How Do I Apply?

Visit: <https://www.dhses.ny.gov/nys-emergency-services-revolving-loan-program>

NOTE: Applicants may only apply in one category, and no applicant shall receive a loan more than once in any five-year period.

Program Summary

The New York State Emergency Services Revolving Loan Account was established under 97-pp of the State Finance Law to make loans to cities, villages, fire districts, counties, towns, and not-for-profit fire/ambulance corporations at an annual fixed interest rate of 2.5 percent. Principal and interest payments made by recipients are deposited into the Revolving Loan Account and loaned once again to new applicants. Therefore, funding levels in the account will vary throughout the year depending upon the amount of repayment money, interest accrued, and number of new loans made.

Please do not consider this program your sole source of financing, and use some long-range planning when submitting a request. Sufficient funds *are not* always available to cover all approved requests at the time of a meeting; therefore, some loan requests may be approved pending the availability of funds. All applicants will be notified in writing as to the status of their request, and money will be paid out as cash becomes available.

Eligible Applicants

A city, village, fire district, or incorporated not-for-profit fire/ambulance company is eligible to apply for a loan. Where a fire protection district exists, a town or a county may apply subject to the limitations specified in Town Law 184 and County Law 225-a.

Allowable Costs

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 percent 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 percent of 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, self-contained

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respiratory protection devices, voice or original transmission systems, or telemetry systems 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

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 construction)

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

For more information, visit:

<https://www.dhses.ny.gov/nys-emergency-services-revolving-loan-program>

The Volunteer Fire Infrastructure & Response Equipment Grant Program

***According to FY25-26 V-FIRE Grant Information**

DEADLINE

TBD; to monitor application availability, visit: <https://www.dhSES.ny.gov/state-funded-programs>

Agency

State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES)

Program Summary

The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to solicit eligible applications for up to \$1,000,000 in funding to support construction, renovation, or purchase costs of critical facilities (buildings, training facilities, etc.) that support fire operations, or up to \$500,000 in funding to support the purchase of allowable fire service equipment to upgrade and improve facilities and response capabilities. Funds will be awarded competitively based on the review of applications submitted. The \$25,000,000 available in State funding for this initiative will be divided into two tracks of eligible projects to maximize the benefits of the program funds. Eligible applicants may only select ONE of the following options for their grant applications:

1) Funding Option 1:

Construction/Renovation/Facility Purchase Projects: A total of \$20,000,000 in program funds will be devoted to supporting construction/renovation/facility purchase projects and is available to all eligible applicants. The funding amount per application may not exceed \$1,000,000 in projects requested under Funding Option 1.

2) Funding Option 2:

Equipment Projects: A total of \$5,000,000 in program funds will be devoted to supporting allowable fire service equipment projects and is available to all eligible applicants. The funding amount per application may not exceed \$500,000 in projects requested under Funding Option 2.

Should an eligible applicant submit for multiple projects within an application under one of the above funding options, they are highly encouraged to prioritize their projects with the most pressing needs and most significant capability gaps. DHSES reserves the right to adjust the allocation caps for either track of funding to support the most critical needs of the fire service community based on the number and type of applications received.

Eligible Applicants

Only eligible entities that are located within the State of New York and serve one or more local governments may apply. All applicants must articulate how they meet the eligibility requirements within their application.

Organizations include: Volunteer fire companies that are comprised of 100% volunteer firefighters and are responsible for providing fire protection services to one or more jurisdiction(s). These entities are required to submit the signed contract agreement with the town or village they are covering.

Nonprofit fire companies are eligible to apply and are subject to Prequalification or Prequalification Exempt status.

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Municipalities – Villages, towns, cities, and fire districts responsible for providing fire protection through a fire department comprised of 100% volunteer firefighter membership.

- **Counties and Municipal Shared Services Applications:** Counties may only apply on behalf of local volunteer fire departments that are comprised of 100% volunteer firefighter membership, provided the applying county has a minimum of 60% documented approval from the volunteer fire departments within the county that will directly benefit from the requested project(s). Requests for grant funds under a county application must be for shareable projects that will benefit and be accessible to the volunteer fire departments represented in the application. The applying county must complete and submit the Local Volunteer Fire Department Consent Form (Exhibit C) and include at least 60% sign-off from the fire chiefs of agencies represented in the application.
- Two or more municipalities may apply for shared projects that will benefit and be accessible to two or more volunteer fire departments.

Examples of shareable projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Fire training center, training tower or other training facility
- Decontamination or gear-washing trailer
- SCBA fill station

Allowable Costs

Applicants seeking funding through the SFY 2025-2026 V-FIRE Grant Program may request funding through one of the following options of allowable project types:

Funding Option 1:

Construction of New Facilities – This category includes both fire stations and training facilities. There is a growing demand for new training facilities, and existing training structures are deteriorating rapidly due to the strain of overuse and age. In addition to training facilities, it is often not cost-effective to renovate an aging fire station. Costs of station design and construction can overburden some agencies.

Permissible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Fire stations
- New construction
- Additions to existing structures
- Fire training facilities, including training towers and buildings
- Instructional classrooms and meeting spaces
- Exhaust systems
- Shower facilities for decontamination
- Substations and joint/shared stations
 - New construction
 - Additions to existing structures

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Renovation of Existing Facilities – As facilities and infrastructure age, it is important to maintain a safe and sophisticated fire station with ample room to house fire apparatus and equipment, as well as to train firefighters so they can maintain and increase their knowledge and ability to respond to emergencies. It is also important to keep up with the advancements in technology, as well as new building codes and standards. Outdated, overflowing, and unsafe stations and training facilities should be considered for expansion and/or renovation.

Permissible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Remodeling an existing structure (i.e., updating, improving, or altering)
 - Includes work to both the interior and exterior of facilities
 - Creating a dedicated space for Personal Protective Equipment (separate from other occupied areas to lower transfer of carcinogens)
- Modifications to bring facilities into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
 - Includes ramps, entryway improvements, elevators, etc.
- Exhaust systems
- Shower facilities for decontamination

Funding Option 2:

Purchase of Allowable Equipment – With an increased awareness of the health and safety of firefighters, as well as new policies and regulations, agencies may find it difficult to continue investing in the latest equipment to keep first responders protected from the dangers of the field.

Permissible items include, but are not limited to:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including SCBA
- PPE washer/extractor
- PPE dryers
- Radios and communications equipment
- Firefighter rehabilitation equipment
- SCBA fill station and testing equipment

Next Generation 911 (NG911) Grant Program

***According to the 2025 Next Generation 911 (NG911) Grant Program**

DEADLINE

TBD; to monitor application availability, visit: <https://www.dhSES.ny.gov/state-funded-programs>

Program Summary

The NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) is making \$85 million in State funding available to enhance Next Generation 911 (NG911) for county-level primary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and primary PSAP backup centers to prepare for NG911 implementation. The county's primary PSAP is defined as a PSAP operated by or for the county and is typically the PSAP that first receives a wireless 911 call. The primary PSAP backup is defined as the PSAP that is designated to be the first alternate for the county's primary PSAP in the event of a failure. This grant will support call handling functions within the Public Safety Answering Points and the primary Public Safety Answering Points backup facility (if applicable) to include interfaces, equipment and software applications necessary for agencies to receive and process incidents with the overarching goal of increasing statewide capabilities to accept NG911 calls in accordance with the current NENA i3 standard and any applicable iteration of the standard thereafter.

Call Handling Equipment (CHE) is a key component of an NG911 solution and can be burdensome financially, technologically, and operationally when implementing NG911. Older analog technology may not be capable of processing the features available in an NG911 call, thus limiting the information and functionality available to telecommunicators.

As communication technology develops, call handling will need to process not only 911 voice calls, but also non-traditional methods of requesting emergency services, including text, video, automatic crash notifications, etc. This grant will assist agencies in the obstacles that exist today with their CHE, allow the agency to analyze its current CHE and optimize/update its CHE to the standards that will be required to connect to the Emergency Services IP Network (ESInet) and Next Generation Core Services.

Eligible Applicants

Eligibility for this grant program is limited to New York State counties that fall outside of the five (5) boroughs of New York City based on the statutory requirements outlined in the State appropriation language which established these program funds.

Allowable Costs:

Please note: At least 50% of each awardee's expenses must be for hardware purchases.

- Call Handling Equipment (CHE) – new (meets NENA i3 Standard requirements)
- Upgrade CHE or refresh CHE to most current standard and meet the technical specifications set forth by New York State
- New or a refresh of logging recorders
 - Logging recorder must comply with the NENA i3 standard and any subsequent amendments.

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- Reference: NENA-STA-010.3f-2021
- IP-based network equipment that specifically supports the PSAP
 - Routers, switches
 - Firewalls for high-speed data and security
- Infrastructure/facility upgrades (back room) equipment at the PSAP, where they directly support the CHE.

Additional permissible expenses, if and when the eligible county has accomplished the projects above, are listed below. Important note: Prior to requesting any of the following items, DHSES-OIEC must be consulted to preapprove the specific project(s).

- GIS data and support as related to 911 call processing and/or dispatching
- ESInet costs that are permissible:
 - Fiber-optic infrastructure that directly supports 911 call delivery (additional capacity may also be built in conjunction, e.g. such as dark fiber strands in new cables);
 - Network equipment (including routers, switches, firewalls, network management and monitoring) that directly supports 911 call delivery;
 - Construction costs related to installation of fiber-optic networks that directly support 911 call delivery;
 - Construction of redundant network entrance facilities that directly support 911 call delivery;
 - Network connectivity between PSAPs (e.g. within a county, between primary and backup, between counties) when used for 911 call delivery;
 - Design/consultant services for the construction of fiber-optic infrastructure and/or redundant entrance facilities that directly support 911 call delivery;
 - Backup power systems that support networks for 911 call delivery; and
 - Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)

Allocations:

The \$85 million in funding through the SFY 2025 Next Generation 911 Grant Program will be distributed noncompetitively among all eligible applicants, providing a base-level of funding totaling \$57 million (\$1,000,000 per county) and incorporating county population (based on current census data) for the remaining \$28 million.

See page 4 in the guideline booklet for allocation disbursements.

Questions?

Contact: Grant.Info@dhSES.ny.gov

For more information, visit the guideline booklet:

<https://www.dhSES.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2025/04/sfy2025-ng911-grant-guidelines-final-4.15.2025.pdf>

Community Development Block Grant

*According to 2025 funding round for NYS CDBG

DEADLINE

TBD; to monitor application availability, visit: <https://hcr.ny.gov/community-development-block-grant>

Agency:

NYS Office of Homes and Community Renewal

Eligible Applicants

- Eligible applicants are non-entitlement units of general local government (county, town, city, or village), excluding metropolitan cities, urban counties, and Indian tribes that are designated Entitlement Communities. Non-entitlement areas are defined as cities, towns, and villages with populations of less than 50,000, except those designated principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, and counties with populations of less than 200,000.

For a list of eligible communities, please visit:

<https://hcr.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2025/03/eligible-communities-by-county.pdf>

A joint application may be submitted to address a shared community development issue faced by two or more eligible local governments, such as joint water or wastewater infrastructure. Potential joint applicants must contact OCR prior to submission. Joint applications submitted only for administrative convenience are not eligible and will not be considered for funding. Note that joint applicants must individually adhere to citizen participation requirements. For additional information on the requirements of a joint application, see Chapter 5 of the NYS CDBG Grant Administration Manual at <https://hcr.ny.gov/community-development-block-grant#program-guidelines>.

- The State must ensure that no less than 70% of its CDBG funds are used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons. The program objectives are achieved by supporting activities or projects that benefit low- and moderate-income families, create job opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons, prevent or eliminate blight, or address a community development need that poses a serious and imminent threat to the community's health or welfare. Projects that are proposing a National Objective of LMA or low- and moderate-income area benefit must be able to demonstrate that at least 51% of beneficiaries are LMI.

For assistance in using this tool, please contact OCRINFO@hcr.ny.gov or any CDBG Project Manager.

Eligible Activities

NYS CDBG funds may be used to undertake a variety of public facility and public improvement projects. In general, public facilities and public improvements include all facilities and improvements that are publicly owned, or that are owned by a nonprofit and open to the public.

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Eligible activities include the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or installation of public facilities. Eligible types of facilities and improvements include, but are not limited to:

- Senior centers
- Accessibility modifications for the removal of architectural barriers
- Neighborhood facilities, including, but not limited to, libraries, childcare centers, recreational facilities, parks, playgrounds
- Facilities for persons with special needs such as facilities for the homeless or domestic violence shelters, nursing homes, or group homes for the disabled
- Infrastructure improvements, including construction and installation of streets, curbs, lighting, and broadband
- Fire stations and equipment

Eligible costs associated with public facility activities may include energy efficiency improvements and accessibility modifications to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (including improvements to buildings used for general conduct of government). Accessibility modifications are strictly limited to the removal of architectural barriers, such as installing lifts, automatic doors, or ramps. Projects that are applying for accessibility modifications for new construction are not eligible. Note that eligibility for assistance to public facilities may vary based on use and local demographic information.

From 2026 NYS Community Development Block Grant Program RFA Guidelines. Please visit for more information on eligibility: hcr.ny.gov/cdbg-rfa

Public facility activities include, but are not limited to, funding for: structures to house or serve special needs populations, senior services, childcare centers, removal of architectural barriers (ADA compliance) for the disabled (installing lifts, automatic doors, ramps, etc.), and multipurpose buildings housing several qualifying activities for low- and moderate-income persons.

Grant funds may also be used for stand-alone public works activities such as sidewalks, streets, parking, open space, and publicly owned utilities. Eligible projects may include the repair or replacement of existing systems, construction of new systems, or expansion of existing systems into areas previously unserved that are in compliance with the NYS Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Act (Chapter 433 of the Laws of 2010).

The following activities are eligible for public facilities:

- Community facilities
- Day Cares
- Senior Centers
- Removal of Architectural Barriers
- Senior Vans
- Mobile Medical/Dental Vans
- Firetrucks

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- Other (sidewalks, demolition)

“Buildings for the general conduct of government” are generally not eligible for NYS CDBG funding assistance. The exception is that CDBG funds may be used to remove from such buildings material and architectural barriers that restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly or severely disabled persons, also known as ADA compliance. Reference: §570.207(a)(1) v

As defined in the statute, the term “buildings for the general conduct of government” means “city halls, town halls, county administrative buildings, State Capitol or office buildings, or other facilities in which the legislative, judicial, or general administrative affairs of government are conducted.” The term includes courthouses, but does not include jails or prisons. It does not include buildings which are used to deliver services to the public, such as police stations or fire stations. “Mini-city halls,” which are used by some large communities to make certain services available closer to the public, are also not included under this term. Generally speaking, buildings which house administrative functions of the government are considered to be “buildings for the general conduct of government.” Thus, CDBG assistance to a building in which the chief of police and the fire captain of a city have their offices would generally be ineligible. For small communities where one building provides both the administrative functions and services directly to the public, a determination should be sought from OCR as to whether the building may be assisted under this category.

The costs to operate and maintain public facilities are not eligible under CDBG, but the recipient must demonstrate that these funds are available. Any public facility funded with NYS CDBG funds must be maintained in the same capacity as it is funded for a period of five (5) years after the project is formally closed out by OCR. OCR reserves the right to inspect such facilities during the five-year period to substantiate compliance.

Private facilities that require a membership fee are not eligible for assistance.

From CDBG Grant Administration Manual Chapter 5: Eligible Activities & Requirements. Please visit for more information on eligibility:

https://hcr.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2026/05/cdbg-grant-administration-manual-chapter-5-eligibility-guidelines-5.13.26_1.pdf

Questions?

Contact: ocrinfo@hcr.ny.gov

For more information about the Community Development Block Grant, visit:

<https://hcr.ny.gov/community-development-block-grant#program-guidelines>

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FEDERAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

To apply for a federal grant, please visit <https://go.fema.gov>.

Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)

***According to 2025 AFG Information**

DEADLINE

TBD; to monitor applications availability, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters>

Agency

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Program Summary

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program is one of three grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) focus on enhancing the safety of the firefighters and therefore the public with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The AFG Program provides financial assistance directly to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations, and State Fire Training Academies (SFTAs) for critical training and equipment. The AFG Program has awarded approximately \$8.7 billion in grant funding to provide critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. Since FY 2018, the AFG Program has awarded more than 800 fire apparatuses, 150,000 personal protective equipment items, and 126,000 other fire equipment to more than 7,000 unique recipients. During the same period, the AFG Program provided funding to 915 recipients to modify department facilities or implement wellness and fitness priorities to protect firefighter health.

Eligible Applicants

Fire Departments: 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.

Nonaffiliated EMS organizations: Nonaffiliated EMS organizations operating in any of the 50 states, as well as 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 nonaffiliated EMS organization is an agency or organization that is a public or private 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 medical services are adequately provided by a fire department. FEMA considers the following as hospitals under the AFG Program:

- Clinics;

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- Medical centers;
- Medical colleges or universities;
- Infirmaries;
- Surgery centers; and
- Any other institution, association, or foundation providing medical, surgical or psychiatric care and/or treatment for the sick or injured.

State Fire Training Academies: An SFTA operates in any of the 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Applicants must be designated either by legislation or by a governor's declaration as the sole fire service training agency within a state, territory, or the District of Columbia and recognized by the National Fire Academy. The designated SFTA shall be the only agency, bureau, division or entity within that state, territory, or the District of Columbia, to be an eligible SFTA applicant under the AFG Program.

Nonfederal airport and/or port authority fire or EMS organizations are eligible only if they have a formally recognized arrangement with the local jurisdiction to provide fire suppression or emergency medical services on a first-due basis outside the confines of the airport or port facilities. Airport or port authority fire and EMS organizations whose sole responsibility is suppression of fires or EMS response on the airport grounds or port facilities are not eligible for funding under the AFG Program.

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants

***According to FY25 Funding Round**

DEADLINE

TBD; to monitor application availability, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/safer>

Program Summary

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program (hereafter referred to as the SAFER Program) is one of three grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA's) focus on enhancing the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The SAFER Program provides funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to assist in increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry minimum standards and attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards and to fulfill traditional missions of fire departments. Since 2005, the SAFER Program has awarded approximately \$5.8 billion in grant funding to provide critically needed resources to hire new, additional firefighters (or to change the status of part-time or paid-on-call firefighters to full-time firefighters), as well as recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters.

Eligible Applicants

- **Hiring Activity**

Only firefighters hired (New Hire category) after the SAFER Program grant offer of award are eligible for grant funding. Only full-time positions are eligible for funding. A full-time position is one position that is funded for at least 2,080 hours per year, e.g., 40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year.

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- SAFER Program grant funds will only pay for operational positions whose primary assignment (more than half the time) is on a fire suppression vehicle, regardless of collateral duties.
- Volunteer and mostly volunteer fire departments may also hire individuals to fill officer-level positions (e.g., chief, fire inspector, training officer, safety officer) in addition to their primary operational assignment.
- Funds received under the SAFER Program must not be used to replace funds that would be available from state or local sources, or from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, but shall be used to increase the amount of funding that would, in the absence of federal funds received, be made available from state or local sources, or funds supplied by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

R&R Activity

- Applicants must correlate the activities for which funding is requested and the identified recruitment or retention problems or issues to be addressed. FEMA will not fund a budget line item if an applicant does not provide sufficient information detailing how it will enhance recruitment and retention. Allowable costs may be limited to reasonable amounts, as determined by FEMA.
- Applicants who propose to focus on retention of volunteers will receive equal consideration as applicants focusing on recruitment of volunteers. A focus on retention may include providing incentives for volunteer firefighter members to continue service in a fire department.
- SAFER Program grant funds may only be used for volunteer firefighters who are involved with or trained in the operations of firefighting and emergency response.
- FEMA recommends that departments consult their AHJ or the department's legal counsel to understand the full legal and financial implications involved with implementing or sustaining programs that offer benefits or financial awards to firefighters (e.g., stipends, Length of Service Award Program [LOSAP]/Retirement Program).
- All grant-related purchases and activities must be incurred, received, and completed within the period of performance. The period of coverage or service delivery on all contracts and agreements may not begin prior to or extend beyond the period of performance of the grant. FEMA may permit prorated costs to be charged to the grant for training courses that begin during the period of performance but end after the period of performance ends.
- All funded activities under the R&R Activity must be governed by formally adopted Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Minimally, these SOPs should specify who qualifies for each of the incentives, specific requirements for earning the incentives, and the disposition of the awarded incentives if an individual fails to fulfill the stipulations. FEMA may ask for copies of SOPs before or after being awarded.
- Funds received under the SAFER Program must not be used to replace funds that would be available from state or local sources, or from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, but shall be used to increase the amount of funding that would, in the absence of federal funds received, be made available from state or local sources, or funds supplied by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

SENATOR PAM HELMING FIREFIGHTER AND EMS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Allowable Costs

Hiring Activity

The Hiring Activity offers grants to support applications to hire new, additional firefighters (or to change the status of part-time or paid on-call firefighters to full-time firefighters). National, regional, state, local, Tribal Nation, and nonprofit interest organizations representing the interests of volunteer firefighters are not eligible to receive a SAFER Program award under the Hiring Activity.

R&R Activity

The R&R Activity offers grants to support applications to assist fire departments with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters who are involved with or trained in the operations of firefighting and emergency response. Career fire departments are not eligible to apply for funding under the R&R Activity.

For more information, visit:

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_gpd_safer-nofo_fy24.pdf

Fire Prevention and Safety Grants

***According to FY25 Funding Round**

DEADLINE

TBD; to monitor application availability, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/safety-awards>

Eligible Applicants

FP&S Activity

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 Nation and nonprofit interest organizations that are recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention and safety programs and activities are eligible applicants.

Both private and public nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for funding under this activity.

R&D Activity

National, state, local, federally recognized Tribal Nation and nonprofit organizations, such as academic (e.g., universities), research foundations, public safety institutes, public health, occupational health, and injury prevention institutions.

Both private and public non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for funding in this activity. Fire departments are not eligible to apply for funding in this activity.

- Applicants and recipients should actively coordinate and collaborate with their local and state authorities to help ensure and prioritize the commitment of future nonfederal investments in order to sustain staffing capabilities once an award's period of performance ends.

SENATOR PAM HELMING FIREFIGHTER AND EMS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Allowable Costs

FP&S Activity

The FP&S Activity is designed to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate the incidence of death and injuries caused by fire and fire-related hazards. The five project categories eligible for funding under this activity are:

1. Community Risk Reduction;
2. Wildfire Risk Reduction;
3. Code Enforcement/Awareness;
4. Origin and Cause Investigation; and
5. National/State/Regional Programs and Projects.

R&D Activity

The R&D Activity is aimed at improving firefighter safety, health, or well-being through research and development that reduces firefighter fatalities and injuries. The four project categories eligible for funding under this activity are:

1. Clinical Studies;
2. Technology and Product Development;
3. Preliminary Studies; and
4. Early Career Investigator.

For more information, visit:

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_gpd_fps-nofo_fy24.pdf

For questions regarding these programs, please contact:

Alvin Mathew, Region 2: Serving NJ, NY, PR, USVI

202-714-8398

Alvin.Mathew@fema.dhs.gov

Communities Facilities Direct Loan Program

DEADLINE

Ongoing basis from October 1 - September 30

How Do I Apply?

- Contact your local office to discuss your specific project.
- Program resources are available online (includes forms needed, guidance, certifications).

SENATOR PAM HELMING FIREFIGHTER AND EMS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- Request a [Unique Entity ID](#) number if your organization doesn't already have one. It should not take more than a few business days to get your number.
- Register your organization with the [https://sam.gov/](https://sam.gov) if you aren't already registered. The registration is free, but you need to complete several steps.

Program Summary

This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as 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.

Eligible Applicants

Rural areas, including cities, villages, townships and towns, and federally recognized tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents, according to the latest U.S. Census data, are eligible for this program.

- Public bodies
- Community-based non-profit corporations
- Federally recognized tribes

Allowable Costs

Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses.

Examples of essential community facilities include:

- Health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes or assisted living facilities
- Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars or street improvements
- Community support services such as childcare centers, community centers, fairgrounds or transitional housing
- Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment
- Educational services such as museums, libraries or private schools
- Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment
- Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs or greenhouses.

For a complete list, see Code of Federal Regulations 7 CFR, Part 1942.17(d) for loans; 7 CFR, Part 3570.62 for grants.

SENATOR PAM HELMING FIREFIGHTER AND EMS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

What kinds of funding are available?

- Low-interest direct loans
- Grants
- A combination of the two above, as well as the loan guarantee program. These may be combined with commercial financing to finance one project if all eligibility and feasibility requirements are met.

What are the funding priorities?

- Priority point system based on population and median household income
- Small communities with a population of 5,500 or less
- Low-income communities having a median household income below 80% of the State nonmetropolitan median household income.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>

Questions:

Contact Richard Mayfield, State Director
The Galleries of Syracuse
441 South Salina Street, Suite 357
Syracuse, NY 13202-2541
(315) 477-6400, Ext. 3
Richard.Mayfield@usda.gov

NONGOVERNMENTAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Leary Firefighters Foundation Jeremiah Lucey Grant Program

DEADLINE

May 1 - portal open for Letters of Inquiry

August 15 – deadline to submit a Letter of Inquiry for current calendar year

October 13 – deadline to submit a completed application (for invited applicants only)

How Do I Apply?

Visit: https://lffgrants.smapply.io/prog/leary_firefighters_foundation_2024/

Program Summary

The Leary Firefighters Foundation considers grant requests for training, equipment, and technology for fire departments, both paid and volunteer, in the U.S.

Eligible Applicants

U.S. fire departments, both paid and volunteer

Allowable Costs

Training

To enhance the professional development of fire departments.

Equipment

To provide the best of the best equipment to help keep firefighters and the communities they serve safe.

Technology

To ensure that fire departments update along with technological advances.

Size of Support

Grant sizes vary, but typically range from \$2,500 to \$25,000; occasionally, the Foundation makes larger grants. It makes no recommendations about the size of the grant departments should ask for other than to say that they should ask for what they need and make their very best case as to how that grant will benefit the department and the community it serves.

For more information, visit: <https://learyfirefighters.org/grant/>

Gary Sinise Foundation First Responder Grant

DEADLINE

Rolling

How Do I Apply?

Visit: <https://forms.monday.com/forms/e9e96ea45cc82370867ceb466e277075?r=use1>

Eligible Applicants

Grants are reserved for first responder departments. The Gary Sinise Foundation First Responder Outreach Team defines first responders as “Those individuals called upon in the early stages of an incident that are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment.”

Entities that fall under the described criteria above include:

- Law Enforcement Organizations
- Firefighting Organizations
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Organizations
- Search and Rescue (SAR) Organizations

All first responder departments mentioned above are eligible to submit grant applications. Please note that priority is given to volunteer and underfunded departments.

*First responder departments are limited to one (1) First Responder Grant application per calendar year regardless of approval/denial of the application.

Allowable Costs

Grant requests are limited to equipment and training.

* Building and operating costs, such as construction, utility, or land fees, are not covered under this grant.

Questions?

Contact: firstresponder@garysinisefoundation.org

For more information, visit:

https://assets.ctfassets.net/yx7kkugbpdox/3l5LTAwI25ZMEFeWt9dMF3/ed285215b7ca6e57dbe5060c3849a8e9/GSF_FRO_Grant_Guidelines_FY25.pdf

SENATOR PAM HELMING FIREFIGHTER AND EMS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Terry Farrell Firefighters Fund

DEADLINE

Rolling

How Do I Apply?

Email terryfund@terryfund.org explaining the need and who is requesting with full contact information.

Eligible Applicants

Chief, Commissioner or Board President within a fire and/or EMS organization

Allowable Costs

***ALL GEAR AND EQUIPMENT IS LOCATED EITHER ON LONG ISLAND OR IN DELAWARE
- DOES NOT SHIP**

For more information, visit: <https://www.terryfund.org/copy-of-request-apparatus>

Questions?

Contact Dave DeRoller (Rochester, NY) at: davederoller@terryfund.org

PERMA & NYSAFC Firefighter Risk Management Reduction MiniGrant Program

***According to FY 2025 PERMA & NYSAFC Firefighter Risk Management
Reduction Mini Grant Program Guidelines**

DEADLINE

TBD; to monitor application availability, visit: <https://www.perma.org/fire/>

Program Summary

The purpose of this grant is to provide financial assistance to PERMA members in obtaining equipment that will help reduce duty-related illnesses. PERMA will award grants to reimburse the purchase of gear washers and dryers, which remove carcinogens from turnout gear while maintaining gear durability. The PERMA Risk Management Department and NYSAFC will conduct ongoing evaluations of agencies awarded this equipment to determine its effectiveness in preventing illness. Twenty (20) \$5,000 grants will be awarded through this program.

Eligible Applicants

PERMA members

Allowable Costs

Equipment that will help reduce duty-related illnesses

- Gear washer and dryers

Norfolk Southern Safety First Grant

DEADLINE

August 3, 2026

How Do I Apply?

Visit: https://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/quiz.display_question?x_gm_id=10212&x_quiz_id=11892

Program Summary

The Safety First Grant Program is designed to promote overall safety in the communities across Norfolk Southern's 22-state network. This program is intended to support organizations that directly provide safety services or operate programs that promote safe behavior. Grants are awarded for specific projects and programs only, not for general operating support.

Eligible Applicants

Qualifies as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization based off one of the following charitable criteria:

- A public 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as listed in the IRS Master File
- A state, county or municipal government entity that seeks funding to serve the needs of the community at large
- Operate in one of Norfolk Southern's 22-state networks
- Located within 30 minutes of NS rail (Note: Priority may be given to organizations closest to our rail)
To check, visit: [https://nsites.norfolksouthern.com/?sorting=featured&showpropertyonmap=true&activebasemap2d=Imagery%20Hybrid%20\(Places\)&mapextent=-5847303.606373513,6815348.59948924,-12363407.393626487,2148409.4005107596&mapzoom=5](https://nsites.norfolksouthern.com/?sorting=featured&showpropertyonmap=true&activebasemap2d=Imagery%20Hybrid%20(Places)&mapextent=-5847303.606373513,6815348.59948924,-12363407.393626487,2148409.4005107596&mapzoom=5)
- Aligns with Norfolk Southern's Corporate Giving Safety Focus Area

Allowable Costs

Project must align with one or more of Norfolk Southern's focus areas:

Safety

- Education and Awareness: Programs that prevent accidents and encourage safe behavior
- Response Readiness: Programs and equipment that enable first responders to effectively respond to events and emergencies
- Mitigation of Criminal Activities: Programs that address the core issues that lead to criminal activities, as well as provide effective response mechanisms
- Disaster Relief: Programs and organizations that respond to natural disasters and other community emergencies

SENATOR PAM HELMING FIREFIGHTER AND EMS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Sustainability

- Education and Awareness: Programs and initiatives that assist communities in cultivating environmental respect, stewardship, and leadership
- Preservation and Conservation: Programs that improve environmental conditions through the responsible use of natural resources and the protection of natural ecosystems
- Revitalization of Industrial Areas: Programs that work to restore environments to the natural state through beautification (i.e., planting trees and greenery, adding green spaces)
- Protect and Enhance Water and/or Air Quality: Programs that focus on clean air and water and emission reduction programs

Workforce Development

- Job Skill Development: Programs that support professional, financial, and technical skill development
- Pathways to Employment: Programs that connect people to entry-level job opportunities that will advance into strong careers
- Career Readiness: Programs and initiatives designed to guide young adults in career decisions through mentorships, opportunities to explore career tracks, practical work experiences, skill development, and network expansion
- College Readiness: Programs and initiatives aimed at minimizing academic gaps in young adults and providing them with the insights needed to make knowledgeable decisions about post-secondary education

Thriving Communities

- Basic Life Necessities: Programs that work to prevent or support those in financial need and provide long-term recovery assistance
- Well-Being Support: Programs that support those with mental health and substance abuse concerns, as well as those suffering from domestic abuse
- Preservation of Local Culture: Programs that strengthen identity and preserve historical elements in a community
- Enhance Community Spaces: Programs that beautify neighborhoods and improve shared spaces – increasing livability, promoting commerce, and attracting more residents/businesses to an area

For more information, visit:

<https://www.norfolksouthern.com/en/commitments/in-your-community/community-impact/grant-programs>

SENATOR PAM HELMING FIREFIGHTER AND EMS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant

DEADLINE

The grant portal opens at 10 AM ET on the following dates:

- Quarter 4 2026: Thursday, July 9, 2026

* A maximum of 600 grant applications will be accepted quarterly for U.S. applicants.

Please Note: Grant award notifications, both approvals and denials, will be emailed prior to the portal reopening date each quarter.

How Do I Apply?

Visit: <https://grants.firehousesubs.com/>

Eligible Applicants

Law enforcement, EMS, public safety organizations, non-profits and schools are encouraged to apply.

Allowable Costs

Lifesaving equipment such as vehicle extrication tools, automated external defibrillators (AEDs), bunker gear, thermal imaging cameras, automated chest compression systems, vehicle stabilization struts, bulletproof vests, all-terrain vehicles, and fire hoses.

Commonly Requested Equipment: [Commonly Requested Equipment | Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation](#)

For more information, visit: <https://firehousesubsfoundation.org/commonly-requested-equipment/>

Homes for Heroes Legacy Grants

Summary:

The Homes for Heroes Foundation also awards Legacy grants. These grants are larger grant amounts offered over a longer period of time to help fund a hero organization's new project or initiative.

Questions?

Contact foundation@homesforheroes.com or (866) 4-HEROES for more information.

CSX Pride in Service Grants

DEADLINE

Rolling

How Do I Apply?

Visit: <https://www.csx.com/index.cfm/community-investment/charitable-investments/pride-in-service-grants/>

Summary:

Pride in Service grants are intended to serve those who serve and will be available to organizations that honor and support national and local heroes – veterans, active military and first responders.

Program Funding

* Suggested ranges are \$2,500 to \$25,000.

Grant submissions must fit into one of the following focus areas:

- Safety
- Mental, Social, and Emotional Health
- Bridging Community Divides
- Workforce Development
- Financial Assistance and Food Insecurity

Eligible Applicants

An organization must qualify under one of the following charitable criteria:

- It qualifies by possessing tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as listed in the IRS Master File of organizations conducting activities in the United States.
- It qualifies as a state, county or municipal government entity, including law enforcement and fire rescue departments, and seeks funding to serve the needs of the community at large.
- It qualifies as a pre-K–12 school, charter school, community/junior college, or college/university.



Senator Pam Helming

54th Senate District

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