



## FY 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

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### Enhancing First Responders' Capabilities

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Assistance to Firefighters Grant program is an important component of the Administration's larger, coordinated effort to strengthen the Nation's overall level of preparedness and ability to respond to fire and fire related hazards. Since 2004, over \$1.7 billion in grants through the AFG program have been awarded to first-responder organizations to purchase response equipment, personal protective equipment, and vehicles.

#### Purpose

The purpose of the AFG program is to award grants directly to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations. These awards aim to help these organizations meet their firefighting and emergency response needs. Using a competitive process overseen by fire service subject matter experts, grants are awarded to applicants whose requests best address the priorities of the AFG program.

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*In Fiscal Year 2007, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program will award approximately **\$492.3 million** directly to fire departments and EMS organizations to enhance their response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public and emergency response personnel with respect to fire and all other hazards.*

#### Funding

The FY 2007 AFG program provides approximately \$492.3 million.

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#### Eligibility

Eligible applicants for the AFG program are limited to fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations operating in any of the 50 States plus the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico. Interested applicants can access the FY 2007 AFG application through the AFG website ([www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com)), the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) website ([www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)), and the Grants.gov website ([www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)).

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#### Program Highlights

- There are two areas of eligible activities that can be funded through AFG awards:
  - Operations and Safety Program Area: Eligible activities for fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations are limited to training, equipment, personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness, and health and safety modifications to stations and facilities.
  - Vehicle Acquisition Program Area: Eligible apparatus available to fire departments under this program area include, but are not limited to, pumpers, brush trucks, tankers/tenders, rescue vehicles, ambulances, quints, aerials, foam units, and fireboats.
- Interested applicants may submit two separate applications for consideration under each of the two program areas. The FY 2007 AFG will also allow eligible applicants to submit an additional application for a regional project in which multiple organizations serving more than one local jurisdiction benefit directly from the activities implemented with the grant funds.
- Funding for vehicles is limited to 25 percent of the appropriated funds.

- No less than three and one-half percent of funds must be awarded for EMS training and equipment. However, awards to nonaffiliated EMS organizations are limited to two percent of the appropriation.
  - No less than fifty-five percent of AFG funds must be awarded to fire departments that have either all-volunteer firefighting personnel or combined forces of volunteer and career firefighting personnel.
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## **Program Coordination**

The following entities were involved in developing the FY 2007 AFG guidance:

- Department of Homeland Security
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
  - Office of Grants and Training (G&T)
  - U.S. Fire Administration (USFA)
- Industry
  - International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
  - International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)
  - National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)
  - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
  - National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)
  - International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
  - International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI)
  - North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD)
  - Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI)