

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG)



FEMA

Grant Application Get Ready Guide 2011

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Prepare for your grant application today

The Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program application period will be opening soon! This handy guide will give you a kick-start in preparing your grant application to thoroughly answer all the grant application questions.

The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

To start out, obtain the federal numbers your department needs in order to apply and receive a grant.

Duns Number

Effective October 1, 2003, all federal grant applications must contain a Dun & Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. The DUNS number helps the federal government identify organizations that receive federal funding and ensures consistent name and address data for electronic grant applications. Additional information about DUNS numbers can be found on the Dun & Bradstreet Web site at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do?jsessionid=B9E740A165>.

There is no charge to obtain a DUNS number, and it is your organization's responsibility to obtain one. Extensions will not be granted for applicants who are unable to obtain a DUNS number prior to the end of the application period.

You are encouraged to apply for a DUNS number as soon as possible by calling 1-866-705-5711, or you can apply online; however it may take several weeks to obtain the number online. The DUNS number must be entered in a special data field on the AFG application.

Central Contractor Registration (CCR)

Per OMB guidance from August 27, 2010, federal agencies must require prime recipients of federal grants to register in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) system. The CCR system is the primary registrant database for the U.S. Federal Government. The CCR collects, validates, stores, and disseminates data in support of agency acquisition missions. Registration is FREE and must be conducted online at: www.CCR.gov.

It is your organization's responsibility to register during the application period. The CCR is not required prior to application, but will be required if you are selected for a grant award.

For NEW registrations go to: www.bpn.gov/ccr/grantees.aspx

- A DUNS number is required to apply for a grant and to register in CCR.
- The new CCR registration is NOT a requirement to apply for a grant but as a potential grantee, you should register.
- CCR registration is required to be awarded a grant.
- If your city or governing organization has a DUNS number, check to see if it is registered in CCR and if the CCR is current.
- CCR registrants must renew their registration annually to maintain an active status.

Step 1: Access the CCR online registration through the CCR home page, www.CCR.gov. Click on Start New Registration. You must have a DUNS number to begin the registration process.

Step 2: Complete and submit the online registration. If you have the necessary information (see below), the online registration takes approximately one hour to complete, depending upon the size and complexity of your organization.

The required information includes:

1. General Information – Includes, but is not limited to, your DUNS number, Commercial And Government Entity (CAGE) Code, organization name, Federal Tax Identification Number (TIN), location, receipts, number of employees, and Web site address.
2. Corporate Information – Includes, but is not limited to, your organization or business type and SBA-defined socioeconomic characteristics.
3. Goods and Services Information – Includes, but is not limited to, your North American Industry Identification (NAICS) code, Product Service (PSC) code, and Federal Supply Classification (FSC) code.
4. Financial Information – Includes, but is not limited to, financial institution, American Banking Association (ABA) routing number, account number, remittance address, lock box number, Automated Clearing House (ACH) information, and credit card information.
5. Point of Contact (POC) Information – Includes, but is not limited to, the primary and alternate points of contact and the electronic business, past performance, and government points of contact.
6. Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Information* – Includes, but is not limited to, the EDI point of contact, telephone, e-mail, and physical address.

*Note: EDI Information is optional and may be provided only for those businesses interested in conducting transactions through EDI.

Once a grantee has registered within CCR, the registration is valid for 12 months and must be renewed annually.

If a grantee's registration is expired or inactive, the user must get the registration reset by calling the CCR helpline at 866-606-8220.

Basic Information

- Attend a Federal Emergency Management Agency regional fire program workshop in your area.
- Call the Help Desk at 866-274-0960 or e-mail firegrants@dhs.gov for answers to your questions, or contact your Regional Fire Program Specialist at: <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/program/contact.shtm>.
- Locate your e-Grants system user name and password established from previous grant years. Use the same user name and password on your new application.
- Decide on a main point of contract.
- Become familiar with the AFG Program Guidance. The guidance will be available one week prior to the start of the application period at www.fema.gov/firegrants.

Department Information

- How does your organization protect critical infrastructure?
- What is your population served?
- Is your department compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements?
- Do you currently report to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)?
- What is Fire Department Identification Number (FDIN)?

Financial Information

- What are your state taxes? What is your department's tax rate?
- What is the source of your matching funds?
- Do you have permission from the city to obtain the funds?
- Do you have an indirect cost agreement?
- Has your banking information changed?

Equipment/Vehicle Information

- What is the age of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) you are requesting to replace?
- What is the NFPA 1981 edition of all SCBA you are requesting to replace?
- What is the age of the vehicle you are requesting to replace? You will need to know the age of all vehicles in your fleet.
- What are the specifications for the vehicle being requested?

Regional Information

- Start talking to your regional partners now.
- Begin open discussions with potential new regional partners.
- Gather the necessary information from regional partners to add to your grant application.

Other Information

- For Training grant requests start looking for training centers or classrooms.
- Make sure all projects can be completed in the one-year period of performance.
- For Wellness and Fitness grant requests, note behavioral health programs have been added to this year's grant opportunity.
- Have a full understanding of what your department has and what your department needs.

Check your department's needs assessment against the funding priorities in the Program Guidance. All items are now listed by priority in the Guidance as **H**, **M**, **L**.