

Information Bulletin

3 August 2007

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY OPENS APPLICATION PERIOD FOR STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (SAFER) GRANTS

July 27, 2007 - The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) posted today the Program Guidance document for the FY2007 SAFER Grants at the website for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program - www.firegrantsupport.com

Under the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007, Congress appropriated \$115 million for SAFER Grants. DHS has also made available today an online applicant tutorial, Frequently Asked Questions and other materials to assist applicants in their preparation of competitive applications for these grants.

Beginning July 30, 2007, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will begin accepting applications for SAFER Grants. The deadline for receipt of the SAFER Grant applications will be 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on August 31, 2007.

The applications will be automated and will be accessible from the website for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program at:

www.firegrantsupport.com

The website also provides useful information on the SAFER Grants' priorities and processes that are discussed in the Program Guidance. A list of Frequently Asked Questions is available, and will be updated, as the program staff learns about the areas of inquiry.

An applicant tutorial on the SAFER Grant, designed to instruct users regarding the preparation and submittal of competitive applications, is also now available at:

www.firegrantsupport.com

Applicants who have questions regarding the SAFER Grant opportunities should contact the help desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at:

firegrants@dhs.gov

During the SAFER application period, the help desk will operate Monday to Friday, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm (EDT), but is prepared to revise hours of operation based on volume and demand.

Eligible applicants for SAFER Grants include fire departments (for the hiring of firefighters) and state or local organizations as well as volunteer and combination fire departments (for volunteer recruitment and retention grants). Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the SAFER Program Guidance, and utilize all other assistance materials available on the AFG Website.

The SAFER Grants are administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency.



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