

## **UPDATE: VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AND VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION GRANT**

The next round of the Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Grant will begin soon. Program Guidance, application, and filing time frames will be forthcoming.

**CHANGE IN PRE-QUALIFICATION PROCESS:** During the week of April 14, 2014, the Governor's Grants Reform Team made changes and have released new information regarding Volunteer Fire Organizations and the State Pre-qualification Policy. **All Volunteer Fire Organizations, who are incorporated under Section 1402 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law, are no longer required to pre-qualify in order to be eligible to apply for grants offered by the State of NY.** The change is effective immediately. Any volunteer fire organizations that have already gone through the pre-qualification procedures do not need to maintain their document vault unless they choose to do so. Additionally, and volunteer fire organizations whose pre-qualification status is under review or have been asked for modification will be allowed to withdraw from the pre-qualification process.

All Not-For-Profit Volunteer EMS agencies and Fire Service Associations who represent the interests of volunteer firefighting and volunteer emergency service personnel are still required to go through the pre-qualification procedures. These organizations must submit an online Prequalification Application through the NYS Grants Gateway. The Prequalification Application is comprised of five components to gauge your organizational structure and the types of services you provide. The required forms and document uploads are all part of the Document Vault. Resources to complete the application and associated document vault can be found in the Quick Links Section of the NYS Grants Reform Webpage: [www.grantsreform.ny.gov](http://www.grantsreform.ny.gov).

Fire Districts do not have to prequalify, but do need to register with Grants Gateway.

Form available: [www.grantsreform.ny.gov/sites/default/files/RegistrationFormforAdministratorfillable.pdf](http://www.grantsreform.ny.gov/sites/default/files/RegistrationFormforAdministratorfillable.pdf)

Municipal Village and City Fire Departments are pre-qualified through their respective municipal governments and do not need to pre-qualify through this system.

The purpose of the Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Grant Program is to provide competitive grant funding up to \$25,000 per award for the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters and emergency services personnel, pursuant to section 99-q of the State Finance Law along with sections 209-G and 630-b of the Tax Law.

Organizations eligible for grant funding are limited to volunteer firefighting and volunteer emergency service organizations and to local, regional and statewide organizations which represent the interests of volunteer firefighting and volunteer emergency service personnel.



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