

Information Bulletin

29 March 2006

ONLY TEN DAYS REMAIN IN FY2006 FIRE GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD

March 28, 2006 – The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program office is reminding fire departments and non-affiliated emergency medical organizations that ten days now remain in the FY2006 fire grant application period. The application period for AFG began March 6, 2005, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time and ends 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on April 7, 2006. If you have started an application, please be sure to COMPLETE IT AND SUBMIT IT before the deadline. All applications must be submitted (hit the submit button in the online application) to be considered for a grant award. Once an application is submitted electronically, an automatic notification via e-mail is sent that we have received it.

Through the morning of March 27 a total of 1,313 applications have been submitted. This compares to 2,045 submitted to this point in last year's (2005) application period. AFG makes available competitive grants for equipment, training, firefighter and first responder safety and response vehicles. AFG applications are automated and accessible via the AFG web site:

<http://www.firegrantsupport.com>.

The web site contains important information on the AFG, including the FY2006 funding priorities and program guidance, a web based tutorial on the application process, a listing of frequently asked questions, and other materials. Fire departments that have questions regarding this grant opportunity should contact the Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at firegrants@dhs.gov.

The AFG is administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Grants and Training (G&T) in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration. The AFG program assists rural, urban and suburban fire departments throughout the United States. In addition the AFG accepts applications from nonaffiliated EMS organizations for the activities (equipment, training, vehicles, etc.) for which fire departments are also eligible to apply.

The AFG program office offers three grant opportunities in each year. AFG "fire grant" funds are used by the nation's firefighters and first responders to increase the effectiveness of firefighting and emergency response operations. The application period for SAFER grants is scheduled for June of 2006. SAFER grants provide funding for the hiring of firefighting personnel and incentives for volunteer recruitment and retention. The third grant opportunity will be in September 2006 when the AFG program office opens an application period for Fire Prevention and Safety grants. These grants support not only fire departments, but also other organizations experienced in fire prevention and in firefighter safety research. Through the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2006, Congress provided \$648 million for the Assistance to Firefighters Grants, with \$108 million of the funding specified for SAFER grants and a minimum of \$27 million for the Fire Prevention and Safety grants.



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