



Information Bulletin

Local Volunteer Firefighter Training Stipend

On March 6, 2024, The NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) established the Volunteer Firefighter State Fire Training Stipend Program, pursuant to General Municipal Law (GML) § 200-aa and the adoption of Part 215 to Title 9 of the New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations (NYCRR).

GML § 200-aa and 9 NYCRR Part 215 authorize OFPC to pay a stipend to volunteer firefighters upon completion of certain State Fire training courses. Information on the State Fire Training Stipend program is available here: www.dhSES.ny.gov/new-york-state-volunteer-firefighter-stipend-program

Where authorized by the governing board of a city, town, village, or fire district, 9 NYCRR Part 215 allows payment of a stipend using local funds to volunteer firefighters who have completed certain State Fire training courses (or equivalent training as determined by OFPC), other than those training courses eligible for a State Fire Training Stipend. The intent of this provision is to allow fire departments to promote or prioritize completion of training to meet local needs.

Pursuant to 9 NYCRR Part 215:

- The governing board may establish minimum standards or eligibility requirements for a Local Fire Training Stipend or require the Fire Department to do so.
- Fire departments issuing Local Fire Training Stipends must report fire incident data via the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) or the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for any year prior to 2026 where a Local Fire Training Stipend was paid).
- Fire departments issuing Local Fire Training Stipends must submit fire department demographic information to OFPC using the form available here: www.dhSES.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2026/04/localfdannualreporting.pdf
- A Local Fire Training Stipend may only be provided by a Fire Company to a member who is in good standing of their Fire Department.

Note: pursuant to the language of regulation, Local Fire Training Stipends authorized by a Fire District are to be paid through the Fire Company. The Fire District may create a budget line to provide funding to the Fire Company for these payments.

- A firefighter must have had prior authorization from their Fire Department to take the training.
- To be eligible, the fire training must have been completed on or after August 31, 2023.
- Any volunteer firefighter who receives a State Fire Training Stipend cannot receive a Local Fire Training Stipend for completion of the same or equivalent course.
- Local Fire Training Stipends are limited to a maximum of up to \$500 per course.
- A Local Fire Training Stipend shall only be paid after successful completion of a qualifying State Fire training course (or equivalent) has been verified through a volunteer firefighter's training transcript from the New York State Learning Management System.

9 NYCRR Part 215 requires that fire departments submit Local Fire Training Stipend information to OFPC annually, to include:

- (1) number of Volunteer Firefighters that receive a Local Fire Training Stipend during the calendar year;
- (2) number of Local Fire Training Stipends paid for each course, listed out by course; and
- (3) amount paid per course, listed out by course

To submit the local fire department stipend information, please use *NYS DHSES OFPC Local Fire Department Stipend Annual Report*. This form can be found here: www.dhSES.ny.gov/new-york-state-volunteer-firefighter-stipend-program, and submit to OFPC-Stipend@dhSES.ny.gov