



**Department:** U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
**Agency:** Federal Emergency Management Agency

## FY 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

### Grant Overview

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program provides critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognize standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. Eligible applicants are fire departments, non-affiliated emergency medical services (EMS) organizations, and state fire training academies (SFTAs).

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2018	\$35 million	86

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$315 million

**Award Range:** Varies by population

**Match:** Varies by population

**Solicitation date:** January 27, 2020

**Proposal due:** March 13, 2020

- Priority projects vary by applicant type and project type
- To be most competitive only select projects ranked High priority
- Do not use brand names in narratives
- Work with your FEMA Regional Fire Program Specialist

<https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>



### Awardee Profile

Center Point Fire District  
Birmingham, AL

**AMOUNT:** \$82,095

**YEAR:** 2018

Center Point Fire District received funds through the AFG program for fire prevention and safety equipment.

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### Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. Applicants may request funding under the following eligible activities:

Operations and safety:

- Training: hands-on, instructor-led training that meets a national, state, or Department of Homeland Security-adopted standard and results in a national or state certification
- Equipment: equipment for effective response, firefighting, rescue, and emergency medical operations to enhance public safety
- Personal protective equipment (PPE): acquiring compliant PPE for firefighting and non-affiliated EMS personnel with the goal of increasing firefighter safety
- Wellness and fitness: activities intended to strengthen emergency responders so that their mental, physical, and emotional capabilities are resilient enough to withstand the demands of all hazardous operations
- Modifications to facilities: modifying fire stations and other facilities

Vehicle acquisition: funding to purchase one or more vehicles, and funding for a driver training program

Regional projects: regional activities that benefit more than one local jurisdiction and that seek to support regional efficiency and resilience and achieve cost effectiveness

### Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are:

- Fire departments: agencies or organizations having a formally recognized arrangement with a state, territory, local, or tribal authority to provide fire suppression to a population within a geographically fixed primary first due response area
- Non-affiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations: public or private non-profit EMS entities providing medical transport that are not affiliated with a hospital and that do not serve a geographic area in which emergency medical services are adequately provided by a fire department
- State fire training academies (SFTAs): SFTAs designated either by legislation or by a governor's declaration as the sole state fire service training agency within a state, territory, or the District of Columbia

Fire departments need not be currently participating in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS); however, fire departments that receive funding must agree to provide information to the NFIRS for the period covered by the assistance. There is no NFIRS reporting requirement for non-affiliated EMS organizations or SFTAs.

Applicants do not need to be in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS); however, applicants that receive funding must achieve a level of NIMS compliance required by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) over the applicant's emergency service operations prior to the end of the project period.

A fire department or a non-affiliated EMS organization may act as a host and submit a regional application on behalf of itself and any number of other participating, eligible organizations. Neither the regional host nor any participating partner is prevented from also submitting an application on behalf of its own organization; however, it cannot be for the same item.

## Funding

In FY 2019, \$315 million is available to support approximately 2,500 awards through this program. The project period will span 12 months from the date of award, and is expected to begin on May 1, 2020, and end on April 30, 2021.

Maximum award amounts will vary according to the population of the jurisdiction served by the applicant, as follows:

- Applicants serving a jurisdiction of 100,000 residents or fewer: no more than \$1 million
- Applicants serving a jurisdiction of more than 100,001 residents, but not more than 500,000 residents: no more than \$2 million
- Applicants serving a jurisdiction of more than 500,001 residents, but not more than 1 million residents: no more than \$3 million
- Applicants serving a jurisdiction of more than 1 million residents, but not more than 2.5 million residents: no more than \$3.5 million
- Applicants serving a jurisdiction of more than 2.5 million residents: no more than \$3.5 million

The total funding available for will be allocated according to applicant type, as follows:

- Non-affiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations: no more than 2 percent of total funding available
- EMS providers: no less than 3.5 percent of total funding available
- SFTAs: no more than 3 percent of total funding available, and no more than \$500,000 per SFTA

No more than 25 percent of the total funding available will be allocated for the purchase of vehicles. The funding agency intends to allocate 10 percent of total funds available for the purchase of vehicles for ambulances. For equipment, costs for training props are generally limited to \$50,000, except for SFTA requests. Management and administration costs are limited to 3 percent of the award amount.

Cost share requirements will vary according to the population of the jurisdiction served by the applicant, as follows:

- Applicants serving a jurisdiction of 20,000 residents or fewer: applicants must provide at least 5 percent of the award amount via nonfederal cash contributions
- Applicants serving a jurisdiction of more than 20,000 residents, but not more than 1 million residents: applicants must provide at least 10 percent of the award amount via nonfederal cash contributions
- Applicants serving a jurisdiction of more than 1 million residents: applicants must provide at least 15 percent of the award amount via nonfederal cash contributions

The cost share for state fire training academies (SFTAs) will apply the requirements above based on the total population of the state. The cost share for a regional application will apply the requirements above based on the aggregate population of the primary first due response areas of the host and participating partner organizations. In cases of demonstrated financial hardship, the required cost share may be waived or reduced.

## Contact Information

Program Staff

(866) 274-0960

[FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov)

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