



## Grant Preparation Workshop

Presented by

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### • Federal

- Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)
- Fire Prevention & Safety Grant (FP&S)
- Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grant (SAFER)

### • Foundations/Corporations

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### • Available FEMA Grant Programs

- Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)
- Fire Prevention & Safety Grant (FP&S)
- Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grant (SAFER)

### • FEMA's website

- <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants>



**CORNERSTONE TIP:**  
*Think about any grant as a temporary bridge to span the gap between a risk and a solution. The money will run out one day, but the solution needs to remain.*

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### Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

#### Eligibility

1. Fire Departments
2. Non-Affiliated EMS Organizations
  - A public/private nonprofit EMS organization providing direct emergency medical services to a specific geographic area on a first-due basis but not affiliated with a hospital or serving a geographic area where emergency medical services are adequately provided by a fire department.
3. Regional Applicants
  - Host may be a fire department or non-affiliated EMS organization



**PLEASE NOTE:**  
 If you are **NOT** registered with the IRS as a 501(c) corporation, then you are **NOT** eligible to receive funding from the AFG program.

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### Statutory Limits on EMS Funding

#### Did You Know...

- In FY2011, FEMA allotted \$405 million to the AFG program
- EMS funding is limited to no more than 2% of the AFG appropriation
- That means only \$8.1 million of the nearly \$405 million is reserved for EMS

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### Regional Applications

- **Eligible Regional Activities**
  - Training
  - Equipment Acquisition

*Note: Vehicle Acquisition, Modify Facilities, and Wellness & Fitness are not eligible*
- **Project must have a region-wide impact on interoperability**
  - Example: region-wide communication system/equipment
- **Match requirements are based on the total population served by the defined region**

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### How Do I Apply?

#### Timeframe

- Application window historically opens in the Spring
- Limited time to submit the application once it is open

#### Application Method

- E-Grant Application
  - Recommended and preferred method
  - Website: [www.fema.gov/firegrants](http://www.fema.gov/firegrants)
- Paper Application

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### Application Evaluation: Phase One

- Questions in application are electronically scored
- Preliminary scoring is based on program priorities
- Applications focused on funding priorities have a better chance of reaching the competitive range
- The successful applicants stick to the grant priorities
- Mixing low priority requests with high priority requests will erode your score
- Item scores will be rated based on the relative cost/merit of each activity/item

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### Application Evaluation: Phase Two

- Highest scoring applications in Phase-One qualify for the “competitive range”
- Applications that make it into the “competitive range” are evaluated by panel of at least three peer reviewers

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**Application Evaluation: Phase Two**

**Peer review panelists focus on the Project Narrative**

**But also consider:**

- Answers to the general questions
- Answers to activity-specific questions

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**Application Peer Review**

**Panelists rate applications on the quality of:**

- Project description and budget
- Financial Need
- Cost/Benefit
- Improvements to Daily Operations

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**Critical Narrative Elements**

**Effective applications are based upon addressing the gap between:**

- Community Risk Assessment
- Department Need/Capability Assessment

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## Key Considerations

- You only have a limited number of characters in each section
- Read and thoroughly understand the Program Guidance prior to authoring your grant
- Always tie your project back to improved safety for your personnel and/or community
- This isn't about your department – it's about solving the threat of an immediate risk



**CORNERSTONE TIP:**  
 Do not attempt to attach documents or insert colorful photos or charts (.jpeg, .gif, etc.) This is not permitted, and would only make you look bad. A diagram can be very useful, but have a trusted colleague review it first.

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## Helpful Hints

- Call together a team to work on the application & assign tasks
- Plan to submit your application early
- Write the narrative offline
- Avoid templates from other sources
- Bullets & other fonts will not transfer into the online application
- Look for gaps – never leave the panelists wondering
- Print application and ask someone to read it before submitting
- Do not submit the application before it is reviewed

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## SAFER Grant Program

- **FY 2010 Appropriation provides \$222 million to SAFER Grants – 34 rounds as of 10/07/2011**
- **2 SAFER Activities:**
  - Hiring new career crew members
  - Recruiting and retaining volunteer crew members

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**Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program**

**Examples of eligible projects**

- Public education
- Code enforcement/awareness
- Arson prevention/awareness
- Sprinkler awareness
- Smoke alarm distribution
- Burn prevention

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**Foundations**

There are over 1,600 grant-making foundations in PA

**4 Helpful Websites**

- Pennsylvania Foundations Online
- The Grantsmanship Center
- The Foundation Center
- The Council on Federations

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**Business/Industry Partners**

- Wal-Mart
- Medtronic
- Firemen's Fund
- State Farm Insurance
- Rotary, Lions Club

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**Corporate Giving**

**Many corporations establish philanthropic branches**

- Contact your local Chamber of Commerce and inquire about an index of businesses
- Find the right donor to meet your needs

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**Thank you for attending**

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