



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

## FY 2021 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 organizations, and state fire training academies.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2020	\$319.5 million	1,887
2019	\$254.3 million	1,376

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$414 million

**Award Range:** Varies by population

**Match:** Varies by population

**Solicitation date:** November 2, 2021

**Proposal due:** December 17, 2021

- Construction costs are not eligible under the AFG program
- 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.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Homeland Security

**Agency:** Federal Emergency Management Agency

# FY 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. 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 provides the greatest training benefit
- Equipment: equipment for effective response, firefighting, rescue, and emergency medical operations to enhance public safety. *Updated priorities* to the FY 2021 competition include:
  - Obtain equipment to achieve minimum operational and deployment standards for existing missions as High Priority
  - Replace non-compliant equipment to current standard as High Priority
  - Obtain equipment for new mission as Medium Priority
  - Upgrade technology to current standard as Low Priority
  - Respirator decontamination system is added as Medium Priority
- Personal protective equipment (PPE): acquiring compliant PPE for firefighting and non-affiliated EMS personnel with the goal of increasing firefighter safety. *Updated priorities* to the FY 2021 competition include:
  - Increase supply for new hire/existing firefighters that do not have one set of turnout gear (PPE) or allocated seated position (SCBA). This includes replacing out of service PPE and SCBA as High Priority
  - Replace in-service/in-use/damaged/unsafe/unrepairable PPE or SCBA to meet current standard as High Priority
  - Replace in-service/in-use/expired/noncompliant PPE or SCBA to current standard as High Priority
  - Upgrade technology to current standard as Low Priority
- 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. *Updated priorities* to the FY 2021 competition include:
  - New first-time installation of exhaust, sprinkler, carbon monoxide and/or smoke/fire detection systems are now listed as High Priority, while replacement or update/upgrade to existing systems is considered a lower priority

Vehicle acquisition: funding to purchase one or more vehicles, and funding for driver training as required

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: an agency or organization having a formally recognized arrangement with a state, local, tribal, or territorial authority (city, county, parish, fire district, township, town, or other governing body) to provide fire suppression to a population within a geographically fixed primary first due response area.
- Non-affiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations: an agency or organization that is a public or private nonprofit emergency medical service entity providing medical transport that is not affiliated with a hospital and does not serve a geographic area in which emergency medical services are adequately provided by a fire department. FEMA considers the following as hospitals under the AFG Program: clinics; medical centers; medical college or university; infirmary; surgery centers; and any other institution, association, or foundation providing medical, surgical, or psychiatric care and/or treatment for the sick or injured.
- 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.

Although NFIRS reporting is not a requirement to apply for any AFG Program, fire departments that receive funding under this program must agree to provide information to the NFIRS for the period of performance covered by the assistance.

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.

## Funding

In FY 2021, \$414 million is available to support approximately 2,500 awards through this program. The project period will span 24 months from the date of award, and is expected to begin on May 1, 2022, and end on April 30, 2024 (will vary based on award date).

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 \$4.6 million

- Applicants serving a jurisdiction of more than 2.5 million residents: no more than \$4.6 million

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

- Fire Departments: Not less than 25% of available grant funds shall be awarded to career, combination, or volunteer department types (total of 75 percent).
- Nonaffiliated EMS Organizations: Not more than 2% of available grant funds shall be collectively awarded to all nonaffiliated EMS organization recipients.
- Emergency Medical Services Providers: Not less than 3.5% of available grant funds shall fund emergency medical services provided by fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations.
- State Fire Training Academy: Not more than 3% of available grant funds shall be collectively awarded to all SFTA recipients. Further, not more than \$500,000 of available federal grant funds may be awarded per SFTA applicant.
- Vehicles: Not more than 25% of available grant funds may be used by recipients for the purchase of vehicles. Of that amount, based on stakeholder recommendations, FEMA intends to allocate 10% of the total vehicle funds for ambulances.
- Micro Grants: The selection of the voluntary Micro Grant option (cumulative federal funding of \$50,000) for eligible Operations and Safety activities does not impact an applicant's request or participation under the Vehicle Acquisition or Regional projects. Applicants who select Micro Grants under Operations and Safety as a funding opportunity choice may still apply for a Vehicle Acquisition or Regional project. Of the 25% allocated to each of the career, combination, and volunteer departments, FEMA will aim to fund no less than 25% of the allocation for Micro Grants.

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 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.

FEMA has developed a [cost share calculator tool](#) in order to assist applicants with determining their cost share.

## Contact Information

Work with your FEMA [Regional Fire Program Specialist](#) on scoping your application and consult the AFG help desk at (866) 274-0960 or [FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov).

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