



## ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS

### FUNDS AVAILABLE

# \$306 MILLION

**Application period opens:** Monday, Dec. 7, 2015 at 8 am EST

**Application period closes:** Friday, Jan. 15, 2016 at 5 pm EST

## GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

The FY 2015 AFG is a competitive discretionary grant program whose purpose is to enhance the health and safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated EMS organizations, and state fire training academies. The objective of the program is to award grants for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. Awards are made within three areas of eligible activities: Operations and Safety, Vehicle Acquisition and Regional Projects.

## WHO CAN APPLY

The following entities are eligible to apply directly to FEMA for grant funding:

- Fire departments
- Nonaffiliated EMS
- State fire training academies

## ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

### Communications Equipment:

- All interoperable communications equipment must be APCO P25 compliant. No waivers will be granted.
- Grantees that are using AFG Funds to support emergency communications activities should comply with the FY 2015 SAFECOM Guidance for Emergency Communications Grants.
- Eligible communications equipment is considered a high funding priority and includes P25 compliant base stations, portable and mobile radios, mobile repeaters, pagers, mobile data terminals, and headsets. First time purchases to support existing mission or to replace obsolete or damaged equipment are also prioritized. It should be noted, however, that with increased scrutiny on the cost of radios, additional justification should be provided for any amounts being requested beyond the base price for advanced features and functionalities.
- Ineligible communications equipment includes communications towers, sheds to house communications equipment, repeaters not attached to an existing vehicle, computer assisted dispatch systems, dispatch consoles, and new or expanded communications projects that operate on the 700 MHz public safety broadband spectrum.

**Maintenance and Sustainment Costs** (e.g., maintenance agreements, service contracts, extended warranties, repairs, and user fees) are allowable, but the coverage period of stand-alone contracts or extensions to an existing one must not exceed the performance period of the grant. The only exception where coverage may exceed the performance period is when the maintenance contract or warranty is purchased incidental to the original purchase of the covered equipment and is consistent with that which is typically available through these types of agreements, warranties or contracts.

**Pre-award Costs:** Generally, grantees cannot use grant funds to pay for products and services contracted for or purchased prior to the effective date of the grant. However, on a case-by-case basis, expenses incurred after the application deadline, but prior to award, may be eligible for reimbursement if the expenses were justified, unavoidable, consistent with the grant's scope of work, and specifically approved in writing by FEMA.

## APPLICATION SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be evaluated, in part, through a Peer Review Process based on the following criteria:

- Proposed project description and budget
- Financial need
- Cost/Benefit
- Effect on daily operations

## MAXIMUM GRANT AWARDS BASED ON POPULATION

- In the case of a recipient that serves a jurisdiction with 100,000 people or less, the amount of available grant funds awarded to such recipient shall not exceed \$1,000,000.
- In the case of a recipient that serves a jurisdiction with more than 100,000 people but not more than 500,000 people, the amount of available grant funds awarded to such recipient shall not exceed \$2,000,000.
- In the case of a recipient that serves a jurisdiction with more than 500,000 but not more than 1,000,000 people, the amount of available grant funds awarded to such recipient shall not exceed \$3,000,000.
- In the case of a recipient that serves a jurisdiction with more than 1,000,000 people but not more than 2,500,000 people, the amount of available grant funds awarded to such recipient shall not exceed \$6,000,000, although a waiver demonstrating extraordinary need would be required to receive an award of greater than \$3,400,000.
- In the case of a recipient that serves a jurisdiction with more than 2,500,000 people, the amount of available grant funds awarded to such recipient shall not exceed \$9,000,000, although a waiver demonstrating extraordinary need would be required to receive an award of greater than \$3,400,000.
- Regional applicants will be subject to the funding limitations based on the total population served by the host and participating partners.

## COST SHARING/MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Cost sharing requirements for the AFG program are based on the population protected by the grantee:

- 15% for populations greater than 1 million
- 10% for populations 20,000 to 1 million
- 5% for populations less than 20,000

## GRANT AWARD DATE AND PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

Awards will be made on a rolling basis. FEMA expects to make approximately 2,500 awards. The period of performance is 12 months from the date of award. Extensions to the period of performance will only be considered through formal requests to FEMA with specific and compelling justification as to why an extension is required. Extensions are considered on a case-by-case basis.

## MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS OFFERS A PROVEN BASIS FOR YOUR APPLICATION

We offer a wide range of solutions that help fire and EMS departments enhance their response capabilities to create safer cities and thriving communities.

### All Hazards Response Solutions

- **Two-way Radios and Pagers** designed specifically for first responders to perform in harsh environments and provide vital voice communications. Multiple signaling protocols and operation in multiple frequency bands allow radio interoperability on various networks for mutual aid and disaster response.

### Life Safety Monitoring and Awareness Solutions

- **Accountability Solutions** integrated into portable radios and the radio network to support fire ground operations.
- **Integrated Physiological Monitoring Solutions** to help ensure the safety of firefighters on scene.

### Fire Prevention Solutions

- **Mobile Computing** with ruggedized handhelds to provide instant access to data information and communications in the field.

## WE CAN HELP

The team of funding experts at Motorola can help you apply for a government grant. We can identify areas of eligibility, answer your questions and offer advice on how to write an effective application. For current funding opportunities, proposal-writing tips, step-by-step strategies and case studies of agencies who have successfully received government grants, contact us today or visit [www.motorolasolutions.com/govgrants](http://www.motorolasolutions.com/govgrants).

## WHERE TO APPLY / ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Apply online for the FY 2015 AFG at <https://portal.fema.gov>.
- FY 2015 AFG Funding Opportunity Announcement, AFG Application Checklist, AFG Grant Application Get Ready Guide, and AFG Narrative Get Ready Guide:  
<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/110252>
- FY 2015 AFG Workshop Presentation:  
<https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>
- FY2015 SAFECOM Guidance for Emergency Communications Grants:  
<http://www.dhs.gov/safecom/blog/2015/04/08/fy-2015-safecom-guidance>
- All applicants are required to have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number. Instructions for obtaining a DUNS number:  
<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-1-obtain-duns-number.html>
- System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration instructions:  
<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html>
- AFG Help Desk is staffed throughout the application period to assist with the automated application and questions of eligibility. Call the Help Desk at **1-866-274-0960** or email [FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov). Help Desk hours are **8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday**.

