



19

CITY OF DANBURY
155 DEER HILL AVENUE
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

DAVID W. ST. HILAIRE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

(203)797-4652
FAX: (203)796-1526

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: 04/29/09
TO: HON. MARK D. BOUGHTON VIA THE COMMON COUNCIL
FROM: DAVID W. ST. HILAIRE, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE *DWS*
RE: RESOLUTION-FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT-FIRE DEPT

Attached for your review is a resolution that will allow the City of Danbury Fire Department to apply for and accept funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program. This funding will be used to purchase equipment and provide training for the Fire Department.

If awarded, funding from FEMA will not exceed \$500,000, and the required City match will not exceed \$100,000. The grant will be awarded in the 3rd quarter of the 09/10 fiscal year, and the grant cycle of 12 months will overlap into the 10/11 fiscal year.

However, due to the increasing availability of federal stimulus funding, grant opportunities for the City have increased as well. Although every effort will be made to utilize the departmental budget in the applicable fiscal years to meet the required City match, we must be prepared to reserve fund balance to meet the required match for application purposes for this grant and other upcoming grant opportunities.

The Common Council is respectfully requested to consider this resolution at its next meeting.

DWS/sk

Cc: Chief Herald



RESOLUTION

191

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

_____ A. D., 200_

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") has made a funding opportunity available through its Assistance to Firefighters Grants program to the City of Danbury Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, this funding will be used by the City of Danbury Fire Department to purchase equipment and provide training; and

WHEREAS, the federal award from FEMA for this 12 month grant cycle will not exceed \$500,000 and the required City match will not exceed \$100,000 and will be awarded in the 09/10 fiscal year and overlap into the 10/11 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, the departmental budget will be reviewed for availability of funds to be used towards the City match, with fund balance reserved if necessary to meet the required amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mark D. Boughton, Mayor of the City of Danbury, or his designee, Geoff Herald, Fire Chief of the City of Danbury, is authorized to apply for and subject to availability and certification of local match, accept this funding from FEMA and to do all things necessary to effectuate the purposes thereof.



19-2

CITY OF DANBURY

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Fire Department
19 New Street

Geoffrey R. Herald, Chief
(203)796-1550
Fax (203) 796-1533

DATE: APRIL 27, 2009
TO: DAVID ST. HILAIRE, FINANCE DIRECTOR
FROM: GEOFF R. HERALD, FIRE CHIEF
RE: GRANT APPLICATION / PERMISSION
CC: SUE KAMINSKI, FINANCE DEPT.

David:

I would request the approval of the Common Council to permit me to apply for an "Assistance for Firefighters' Grant" for the Danbury Fire Department. The purpose of the grant is to purchase equipment and provide training.

The Federal share of the grant, if awarded, will not exceed \$500,000 and the city share will not exceed \$100,000.

If additional information is needed, please contact.

Respectfully yours,

Geoff R. Herald
Fire Chief

GRH/ft
Grant Application6

Title of Opportunity: Assistance to Firefighters Grants

Federal Agency Name: Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Grant Programs Directorate (GPD)

Announcement Type: Annual

Dates: Completed applications must be submitted as early as Wednesday, April 15, 2009, but **no later than 5:00 p.m., eastern standard time on Wednesday, May 20, 2009.**

Additional overview information: *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (Public Law 111-5) provided \$210 million in funding to DHS to construct new fire stations or modify existing fire stations. That funding opportunity will be announced in the near future and eligible applicants will be instructed on the application requirements at that time. Station construction will **NOT** be part of this offering. Interested parties should monitor www.recovery.gov for updated information on this and other first responder funding opportunities.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) remains largely unchanged from the previous year's program based upon input from members of America's fire services and other stakeholders. However, in FY 2009, we will shift the focus on the level of response provided in emergency medical services (EMS) from basic life support (BLS) to advanced life support (ALS). We will add "candidate physical agility assessments" as a high priority under the Wellness and Fitness Activities.

As in previous years, the AFG will fund only projects that do not alter the footprint or the profile of an existing structure. Under modifications to facilities, the criteria development panel recommended that we differentiate between systems that evacuate the vehicle exhaust directly from the vehicle to the exterior of the structure (without the exhaust entering habitable areas) from systems that do allow exhaust to enter habitable areas. They also recommended that we place a higher priority on the extraction systems. Additionally, the panel recommended that any structure built after 2003 be deemed ineligible for funding under modifications to facilities. While air quality had been an issue of concern in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, since its adoption in 1987, the 2002 Edition of NFPA 1500 provided extensive guidance concerning exposures to potential carcinogens. DHS has adopted the 2007 Edition of NFPA 1500 and applicants should refer to this edition for further information if applying for modifications to facilities.

Finally, as a condition to receiving a vehicle award, vehicle grantees must certify that they will adopt and enforce standard operating procedures (SOPs) that comply with Chapter 6 of NFPA 1500 *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*. Specifically, the SOPs should require that all passengers/occupants wear seatbelts and that the drivers obey all traffic signals, signs, and laws.

PART II. AWARD INFORMATION

This section summarizes the award period of performance and the total amount of funding available under the FY 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG), describes the basic distribution method used to determine final grants awards, and identifies all eligible applicants for FY 2009 funding.

A. Award Period of Performance

The period of performance of AFG Grants is 12 months from the date of award. Extensions to the period of performance will be considered only through formal requests to DHS with specific and compelling justifications regarding why an extension is required. Extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

B. Available Funding

This section describes departments and organizations that are eligible to apply for funding under the FY 2009 AFG, the total available funding in FY 2009, and how those funds are allocated. The authority for AFG is derived from the *Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974* (15 U.S.C. §§ 2229 *et seq.*), as amended. Congress appropriated a total of \$565 million for the FY 2009 AFG. Funds appropriated for the FY 2009 AFG are available for obligation and award until September 30, 2010.

C. Specific Funding Parameters

Congress appropriated a total of \$565 million to carry out the activities of the FY 2009 AFG Program. Congress directed DHS to administer these funds as indicated below.

- Up to 5 percent of appropriated funds may be used for program administration; however, the Executive Branch has limited our use of appropriated funds to 4 percent for administration (\$22.6 million).
- Up to 2 percent of appropriated funds (\$11.3 million) may be used for awards to nonaffiliated EMS organizations.
- No more than 25 percent of appropriated funds (\$141.25 million) may be used for vehicle awards.
- No less than 3.5 percent of appropriated funds (\$19.775 million) must be awarded for equipment and training grants for both fire-based EMS and nonaffiliated EMS.

- No less than 5 percent of appropriated funds (\$28.25 million) must be made available to make grants for fire prevention activities (Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grants). However, due to the importance of mitigation activities, the FY 2009 FP&S will be allocated \$35 million for grants.
- No less than \$3 million must be awarded for foam and foam-related equipment.

When making awards, DHS must assure that the combined percentage of awards to combination and volunteer departments is equal to, or greater than, the percentage of the Nation's population that these types of departments serve. The National Fire Protection Association has reported (*U.S. Department Profile Through 2007*, issued October 2008²) that combination departments protect 34 percent of the Nation's population and volunteer departments protect 21 percent. As such,

- No more than 45 percent of the \$507.4 million available for AFG awards (\$228,330,000) may be granted to career organizations and departments.
- No less than 34 percent of the \$507.4 million available for AFG awards (\$172,516,000) must be granted to combination organizations (organizations and departments with both paid career and volunteer active duty members).
- No less than 21 percent of the \$507.4 million available for AFG awards (\$106,554,000) must be granted to all-volunteer organizations (organizations and departments with no active duty paid career members).

Congress also limited award amounts based on population protected by the applicant, as indicated below.

- Applicants who serve a jurisdiction with a population of 500,000 people or less may not receive grant funds in excess of \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year.
- Applicants who serve a jurisdiction with more than 500,000, but not more than 1,000,000, people may not receive grant funds in excess of \$1,750,000 for any fiscal year.
- Applicants who serve a jurisdiction of more than 1,000,000 people may not receive grant funds in excess of \$2,750,000 for any fiscal year.

The cumulative total of the Federal share of awards in Operations and Safety, Vehicle Acquisition, and Fire Prevention and Safety will be factored when assessing award amounts and any limitations thereto. Applicants may request funding up to the statutory limit on each of their applications (*i.e.*, an applicant who serves a population of less than 500,000 may request up to \$1,000,000 on their Operations and Safety application and up to \$1,000,000 on their vehicle request); however, the applicant would have to choose

² At the time of this writing, the 2008 figures were not available from NFPA.

which application to accept, if the cumulative value of both applications exceeds the statutory limits if awarded.

For the purposes of this program, applications for regional projects will not be included in the host applicant's funding limitations detailed above. Regional applications will be considered independent of, and unrelated to, any other applications that the host applicant may submit and thus will not be included when assessing the host applicant's Federal funding limits. Regional applications, however, will be subject to their own limitation based on the total population that the regional project will serve. For example, a regional project that serves a population of fewer than 500,000 people will be limited to \$1,000,000.

DHS will also continue to separate FP&S Grants from AFG, and will have a separate application period devoted solely to FP&S Grants. The FP&S application period is planned for fall 2009.

In addition, Congress appropriated \$210 million for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants in FY 2009. The goal of the SAFER Grants is to help fire departments increase the number of frontline firefighters in order to establish a safer response to fire-related incidents. We anticipate that the application period will be open in the summer of 2009. When available, information about the FY 2009 SAFER Grants will be announced on the USFA Website at www.usfa.dhs.gov.

D. Awards

DHS anticipates that between 20,000 and 22,000 applications for assistance will be received during the FY 2009 AFG application period. DHS also anticipates that it will receive over \$3.0 billion in requests. Finally, DHS anticipates that it will award approximately 5,000 grants with the funding available for grants.