



FIRE & EMS MESSAGE



STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT DEADLINE NEARS

The FY2025 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program makes \$324 million available to volunteer and paid fire departments to increase the number of firefighters. **The deadline to apply is 5:00 p.m. on June 22, 2026.**

SAFER offers grants to support two activities: hiring firefighters and recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters. The funding supports municipalities in meeting industry standards, achieving 24-hour staffing, and ensuring adequate protection from fire hazards while supporting the traditional missions of fire departments.

For paid fire departments, the grant can fund hiring to add new firefighters or to convert part-time or paid-on-call firefighters to full-time positions. For Hiring Activity grants, recipients are required to contribute 25% of the actual cost in the first and second years and 65% in the third year. The only eligible expenses under the Hiring Activity grant are salary and associated benefits.

For volunteer or combined fire departments, the Recruitment and Retention Activity grant can fund recruitment and/or retention activities for volunteer firefighters who are involved in or trained in firefighting and emergency response operations. There is no cost-sharing requirement for these grants. Examples of Recruitment and Retention Activities include marketing programs, basic training for new recruits, leadership/career development training, and personal protective equipment for new recruits.

Grant applications are due Monday, June 22, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. It is anticipated that grants will be awarded on September 14, 2026, but no later than September 30, 2026.

The Fire Grants Program Help Desk provides technical assistance to applicants for the online completion and submission of applications in FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO), answers questions concerning applicant eligibility, specifies recipient responsibilities, and assists with the programmatic administration of awards. The Fire Grants Program Help Desk can be contacted at 866-274-0960 or by email at FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov. Normal hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Visit the [SAFER Grant](#) for more information.