



JON S. CORZINE
Governor

State of New Jersey
Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness
PO Box 091
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0091

RICHARD L. CAÑAS
DIRECTOR

June 18, 2009

Dear Fire Chief:

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety (DFS) and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHS&P) have compiled the attached list of Federal Grant programs available to the fire service. All four of the programs can be accessed at www.firegrantsupport.com. Although the application period is currently open for only one of the grants it is imperative that you check the website frequently to stay current on all of these federal grant opportunities.

We strongly encourage you to apply for these fire grant programs. The Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness is prepared to offer you any technical assistance that you may require to complete the applications. Please contact Steven Talpas, Grants and Program Management Bureau Chief, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness at (609) 584-4428 or at steven.talpas@ohsp.state.nj.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Cañas".

Richard Cañas, Director
Office of Homeland Security
and Preparedness

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Petrillo".

Lawrence Petrillo, Director
Division of Fire Safety

Attachment

Federal Firefighter Grant Information Sheet

Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG)

Application Period Currently Not Open.

The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical services organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. The Grant Programs Directorate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency administers the grants in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration. For fiscal year 2005, Congress reauthorized the Assistance to Firefighters Grants for an additional 5 years through 2010.

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER)

Application Period Currently Not Open.

The SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations in order to help them increase the number of trained, "front-line" firefighters available in their communities.

The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by NFPA and OSHA (NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720 and OSHA 1910.134 - see www.nfpa.org/SAFERActGrant for more details). Specifically, SAFER funds should assist local fire departments to increase their staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies whenever they may occur. As a result of the enhanced staffing, response times should be sufficiently reduced with an appropriate number of personnel assembled at the incident scene. Also, the enhanced staffing should provide that all front-line/first-due apparatus of SAFER grantees have a minimum of four trained personnel to meet the OSHA standards referenced above. Ultimately, a faster, safer and more efficient incident scene will be established and communities will have more adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

Safer Grants can be utilized to hire firefighters or to fund volunteer recruitment and retention programs.

Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (FP&S)

Application Period Currently Not Open

The Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (FP&S) are part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) and are under the purview of the Grant Programs Directorate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FP&S grants support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. The primary goal is to target high-risk populations and mitigate high incidences of death and injury. Examples of the types of projects supported by FP&S include fire prevention and public safety education campaigns, juvenile firesetter interventions, media campaigns, and arson prevention and awareness programs. In fiscal year 2005, Congress reauthorized funding for FP&S and expanded the eligible uses of funds to include Firefighter Safety Research and Development.

Assistance to Firefighter Station Construction Grants SCG)
Application Period Now Open.

The FY 2009 SCG Grants application period has opened. Applications for these grants must be received by **July 10, 2009**, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

The Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grants (SCG) will provide financial assistance directly to fire departments on a competitive basis to build new or modify existing fire stations in order for departments to enhance their response capability and protect the community they serve from fire and fire-related hazards. The authority for SCG is derived from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 (Public Law 111-5). Congress appropriated a total of \$210 million for this Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 program.

The AFG Program Office will be utilizing the established grant process employed for all other grant opportunities with AFG. Applications will be submitted via the automated e-grant application and the program office expects the e-application will be available the week of June 8th. The submitted applications will be screened using the answers to the questions in the application to determine which applications will go to panel. Finally, a panel of peers will review each application sent to panel and provide recommendations regarding which applications will be funded.

During the application period, the help desk will operate Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays (Eastern Time). However, the helpdesk will close at 4:30 p.m., on Friday, July 3rd and will not be open on Saturday, July 4th. Applicants who have questions regarding the Fire Station Construction Grants opportunity should contact the help desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at firegrants@dhs.gov.