

VESO LOAN HISTORY:

The Volunteer Emergency Service Organization Loan Program was created as a revolving loan fund to assist emergency service organizations with the purchase of important equipment or the construction of needed facilities. The creation of this low-interest loan fund marks another important increase in New Jersey's commitment to the volunteer emergency service organizations, which are so important to the people of our State.

An initial appropriation of \$2,000,000 was made to the fund. Since it is a revolving fund, all loan repayments, including any interest, are used again to provide further loans. The Department of Community Affairs' Division of Fire Safety operates the loan fund.

The program operates as follows:

WHO CAN APPLY?

Volunteer service organizations within New Jersey, which provide firefighting, rescue, and emergency medical assistance, can apply. These organizations include:

- Volunteer fire companies
- Volunteer fire departments
- Volunteer ambulance squads
- Volunteer rescue squads
- Part-paid fire departments
- Fire districts

More than one volunteer Fire Company, first aid or ambulance squad, or fire district within a municipality may apply. The applicant must, however, be established as a New Jersey nonprofit corporation, fire department, or fire district. Organizations holding one loan are not eligible for a second loan.

WHAT CAN LOANS BE USED FOR?

The loans can be used to purchase vehicles, emergency service equipment, and personal protective equipment or to finance the construction of buildings. Any equipment purchased or facilities constructed with these funds must be directly related to firefighting or emergency services. The loans cannot be used for meeting halls, social rooms, or equipment related to those kinds of facilities.

All repayments will be made in equal annual payments as specified in the loan agreement. Payments will be due on the annual anniversary of the date of the receipt of the loan funds.

Late payments will incur an interest penalty of 1/2% per month.

If an organization dissolves or is reorganized and the outstanding balance is not assumed by another qualified entity then the entire remaining balance shall be repaid at least 45 calendar days prior to dissolution or reorganization.

Nonpayment of loans may force the Division of Fire Safety to turn the file over to the Attorney General's Office for collection.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

More information, applications, and assistance with applications can be obtained from Coordinator, VESO Loans, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and Division of Fire Safety, PO Box 809, Trenton New Jersey 08625-0809, or e-mail Lucille Ventres at lventres@dca.state.nj.us