

Assistance to firefighters grants

FY 2024 Grant Solicitation

\$291 Million

Application period opens:

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. ET

Application period closes:

Friday, December 20, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. ET

Grant highlights

The FY 2024 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.

Eligible activities

Communications Equipment:

- All interoperable communications equipment must be APCO P25 compliant. No waivers will be granted for P25 compliance. The number of radios that may be allowable is based in part on the number of seated riding positions in the applicant's front line apparatus
- Grantees that are using AFG funds to support emergency communications activities should comply with the [FY 2024 SAFECOM Guidance for Emergency Communications Grants](#) and support the state communications interoperability plan (SCIP).
- For individual fire departments, fire regional applications, and state fire training academies: P25-compliant portable radios are considered a high funding priority, depending on the age of the equipment being replaced (i.e. should be at least 8-14 years). Base stations (must be P-25 compliant), headsets, mobile radios (must be P-25 compliant), mobile repeaters (must be P-25 compliant), and pagers (limited to the number of active members) are medium priority for individual departments and fire regional applications, while those same items are high priority for state fire training academies. Mobile data terminals and software specifically to enable radio over IP are medium priority for all eligible fire entities.

Who can apply

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

- Fire departments
- Nonaffiliated EMS organizations
- State fire training academies
- Non-federal airport and/or port authority fire or EMS organizations

- For nonaffiliated EMS and nonaffiliated EMS regional applications: P25-compliant portable radios are considered a high funding priority, depending on the age of the equipment being replaced and the number of AFG-approved seating positions (i.e. should be at least 8-14 years). Base stations (must be P-25 compliant), mobile radios (must be P-25 compliant), mobile repeaters (must be P-25 compliant), pagers (limited to the number of active members) are all considered high priority items. Mobile data terminals, headsets, and software specifically to enable radio over IP are medium priority items.
- Ineligible communications equipment include but are not limited to communications towers, sheds to house communications equipment, fixed non-mobile repeaters or fixed site amplifiers, computer assisted dispatch systems and software, and dispatch consoles.

FEMA has stated they will only consider “High” priority items for funding projects at this time.

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.

Prohibitions on Expending FEMA Award Funds for Covered Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Equipment or Services: Effective August 13, 2020, FEMA grant recipients and subrecipients may not use grant funds for covered telecommunication and video surveillance equipment or services produced by certain Chinese companies identified by Congress in the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2019. For more information see pp. 20 - 21 of the [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#). Additional guidance is available in [FEMA Policy #405-143-1](#). FEMA grant funds may be used to procure replacement equipment and services impacted by this prohibition, provided the costs are otherwise consistent with the requirements of the [NOFO](#).

Buy America Requirements for Infrastructure Projects: Grant recipients planning to use award funds for infrastructure projects must comply with the Build America, Buy America Act unless they obtain a waiver from FEMA. For more information see pp. 47 - 48 of the [NOFO](#) and consult your legal department.

Application selection process

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

- Proposed project description and budget (25%)
- Financial need (25%)
- Cost/Benefit (25%)
- Effect on daily operations (25%)

Maximum grant awards based on population

Population of jurisdiction served by recipient	Maximum Award in FY 2023	Statutory waiver available subject to extraordinary need?
100,000 or fewer people	No more than \$1 million	None available
100,001-500,000 people	No more than \$2 million	None available
500,001-1,000,000 people	No more than \$2.91 million	None available
1,000,001-2,500,000 people	No more than \$2.91 million	Yes, but no more than \$6 million
More than 2,500,000 people	No more than \$2.91 million	Yes, but no more than \$9 million

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

Minimum cost sharing requirements for the AFG program are based on the population served by the grantee:

- 15% for populations greater than 1 million
- 10% for populations 20,001 to 1 million
- 5% for populations up to 20,000

Grant award date and period of performance

FEMA expects to make approximately 2,000 awards, which will be made on a rolling basis. The period of performance is 24 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 emergency medical services departments enhance their response capabilities to create safer cities and thriving communities.

- **[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.
- **[Accountability Solutions](#)** integrated into portable radios and the radio network to support fire ground operations.

We can help you

Many Motorola Solutions products qualify for grant funding, but the grant application process can be challenging to navigate. To help you, we have partnered with the grant experts at [FireGrantsHelp.com](#). Their team of funding experts identify which areas you are eligible for, answer your questions and offer insights on how to write an effective application. Additional tips on applying for AFG funding to support communications projects may be found in Lexipol's FY2024 AFG Communication Project Application Guide.

Where to apply / Additional resources

- Request a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through [Sam.gov](#), register for a [FEMA GO](#) account, and apply online through the [FEMA GO system](#).
- Review the FY2024 [AFG Application Guidance Materials](#), including [FY2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity](#), [AFG Application Checklist](#), [AFG Narrative Development Toolkit](#), and [AFG FAQs](#).
- AFG Help Desk is staffed throughout the application period to assist with the automated application and questions regarding eligibility. Call the AFG Program Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 Monday through Friday, 8 AM – 4:30 PM ET, or email FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov.



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