

A Guide to Federal and State Funding Opportunities for Fire and Emergency Services

How to Navigate the Funding Process

U.S. Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
New York



2013

**Note: This document will be continuously updated as information becomes available.*

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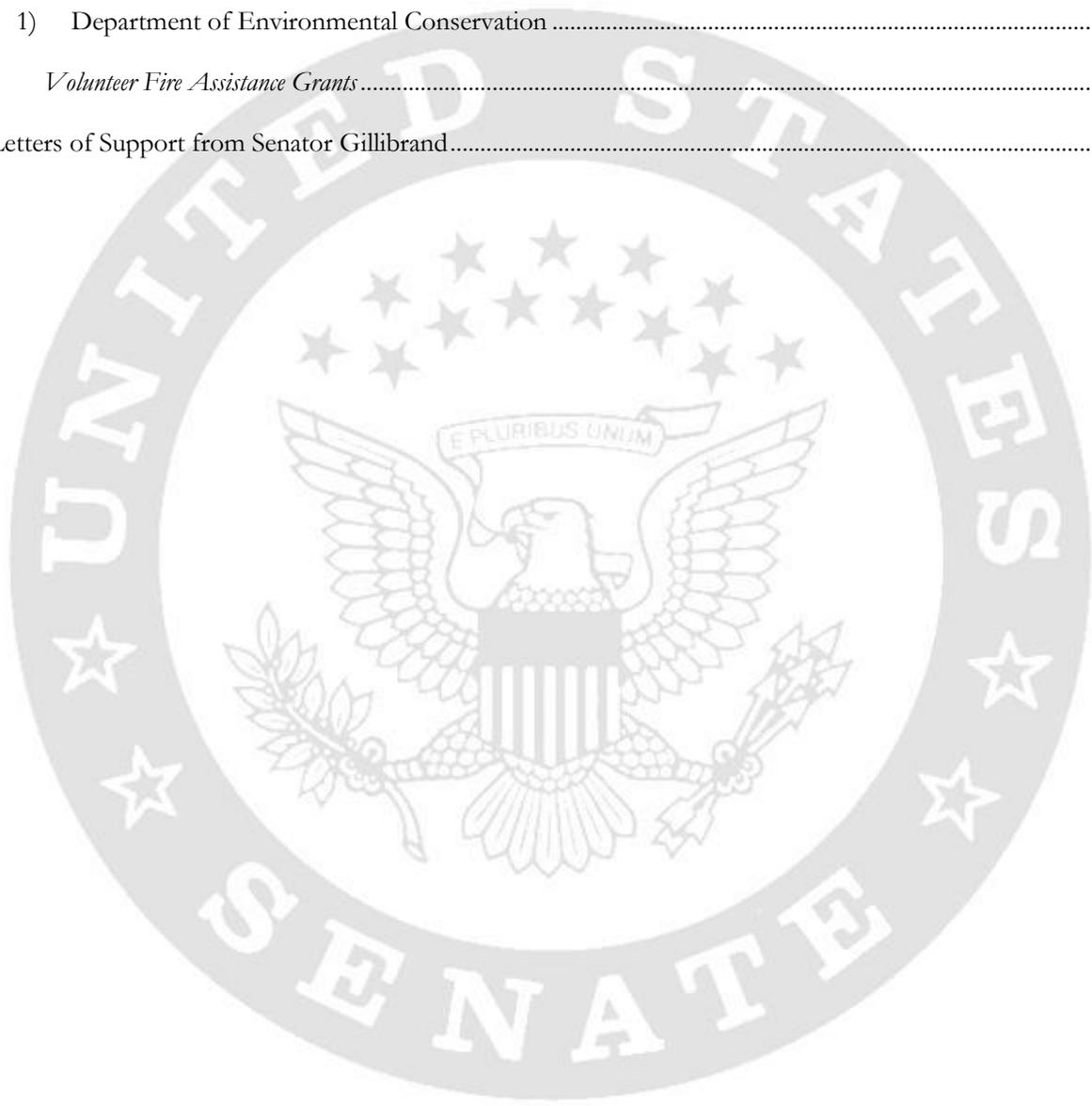
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Introduction

Dear Fellow New Yorker:

Providing our men and women who serve New York with the tools they need is critically important to me as Senator. Each year, the federal and New York State governments as well as private corporations distribute millions of dollars worth of grants and loans dedicated to modernizing and assisting those who are tasked with combating fire and protecting our communities. These grants provide funding for projects and programs ranging from educating the community on the vital work of firefighting organizations to supporting preparedness programs. With tightening budgets in a tough economic climate, New Yorkers should be able to utilize these programs to their full extent.

Finding the resources that meet your needs in the complex web of agencies can be a difficult task. Though numerous publicly and privately supported fire protection programs exist, many organizations in New York are unaware of the opportunities these programs offer. The information available in this packet is meant to address this fact, with the programs listed below detailing numerous federal, state and private programs that provide New Yorkers easier access to available opportunities for funding.

The information in this packet details fire program grants, and loans. As new programs and opportunities emerge, this guidebook will be updated to provide New Yorkers with the most information possible.

The guidebook is comprised of four different sections that provide information about various fire programs. Each section contains a list of programs with an associated basic description, contact information, and eligibility requirements.

My Senate website (www.gillibrand.senate.gov) is continually updated with critical information about new programs available to you, fire programs included, how to access these programs, and where to apply. If you require assistance securing fire grants, please contact any of the numbers provided in this packet, or my New York City office at (212) 688-7444. If you would like more general information on these programs, please contact my grant assistant, Abraham Hiatt, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Section I

Equipment and Training

1) Fire Protection Grants

- This grant is a New York State 50/50 matching funds program. Its purpose is to make funds available to rural fire companies for the purchase of small equipment such as portable backpack pumps, Nomex protective clothing, hand tools, hardhats, small diameter hose, portable radios and dry hydrants.

Additional Information:

- **Applications will be available in the spring of every year.** Fire officials should watch the local newspapers for a news release or contact the local Forest Ranger or DEC office on or about March 15 of each year. There is about a 45 day application period. Awards are made in early June and must be completed no later than September 30, of that year. Application forms can be downloaded from the PDF file on the contact website.

Eligibility:

- Rural fire companies. Based on a rating system incorporating population, Insurance Services Office rating, age, and other factors.

Contact:

- Captain Joseph Zeglen
Contact Email: ranger@gw.dec.state.ny.us
Contact Phone: 518-402-8839
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2364.html>

2) Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) Program

- This program makes long-term loans of U.S. Forest Service equipment to local fire departments through the State Forest Service for use in fire fighting as well as mitigation and rehabilitation. There is no match required, but the equipment must be used for legitimate fire purposes.

Additional Information:

- The "personal" part of the FEPP program simply refers to any tangible property that is not real estate. This can include trucks, aircraft, personal protective equipment, motor oil, nuts, bolts, fire hose, et cetera, but not buildings.
- Approximately 70% of the property involved in the Forest Service FEPP program is sub-loaned to local fire departments.

Eligibility:

- Applicable fire departments

Contact:

- Contact Name: State FEPP Coordinator (Joe Zeglen)
Contact Phone: (518) 402-8837
Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/fepp/index.html>

3) Rural Fire Assistance Program

- The Department of the Interior (DOI) receives an appropriated budget each year for a rural fire assistance (RFA) grant program. This funding will enhance the fire protection capabilities of rural and volunteer fire departments through training, equipment purchases, and fire prevention work on a cost-shared basis.

Additional Information:

- The DOI assistance program targets rural and volunteer fire departments that routinely help fight fire on or near DOI lands. One of these four agencies administers those lands: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Park Service (NPS).

Eligibility:

- Rural and volunteer fire departments that routinely help fight fire on or near DOI lands.

Contact:

- Mr. Tony Recker
Telephone: (615) 564-6764
<http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/vfa/>

4) Fireman's Fund Heritage Program

- The Fireman's Fund Heritage is a national community-based program that provides funds for equipment, fire prevention tools, firefighter training, fire safety education and community emergency response programs. Fireman's Fund employees and agents award grants and provide volunteer support for local fire departments, national firefighter organizations and burn prevention/treatment organizations.

Contact:

- Phone: (866) 440-8716
Website: <http://www.firemansfund.com/heritage/heritage-in-action/Pages/heritage-in-action.aspx>

5) The Jeremiah Lucey Grant Program

- The Jeremiah Lucey Grant Program provides financial support for the training and equipment needs of uniformed firefighters in board-designated geographic areas. The Board of Directors of the Leary Firefighters Foundation invites grant requests from professional, uniformed Fire Departments in New York, Massachusetts, and areas affected by Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast.

Contact:

- Sharon Badal
- Telephone: (212) 343-0240
- Website: <http://www.learyfirefighters.org/grants.php>

6) Assistance to Firefighters / Fire Station Construction Grant

- The purpose is to solicit applications for up to \$100,000 of \$500,000 in federal State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) funding made available by the NYS Office of Homeland Security (OHS) for local response entities that provide targeted technical rescue and urban search and rescue (USAR) related services.

Additional Information:

- The three primary objectives of this grant are: the advancement of targeted technical rescue and USAR capabilities; to promote the development of regional partnerships among local entities that provide technical rescue (USAR) services; and to enhance the standing of the State's technical rescue (USAR) entities in accordance with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Incident Management System (NIMS) Resource Typing for search and rescue where applicable, and NFPA 1670 - Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents for those capabilities not addressed within the NIMS Resource Typing System.

Eligibility:

- Eligible emergency response entities must be legally formed, publicly funded, and formally recognized by the county and municipality in which they reside as agencies responsible for performing technical rescue and USAR activities.
- Response entities must also be a current participant in the county's fire mobilization and mutual aid plan. This grant focuses on technical rescue and USAR involving structural collapse, trench, confined space, swift water or rope rescues in an all-hazards environment.

Contact Information:

- Tom Gallagher (518) 457- 9219
Email: grants@security.state.ny.us
Telephone Phone: (866) 837-9133

7) Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG)

- The purpose of the EMPG is to assist state and local governments in enhancing and sustaining all-hazards emergency management capabilities.

Eligibility:

- All 56 states and territories, as well as the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, are eligible to apply for EMPG funds. Either the State Administrative Agency (SAA) or the state's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) are eligible to apply directly to FEMA for EMPG funds on behalf of state and local emergency management agencies, however only one application will be accepted from each state or territory.

Contact Information:

- Telephone: (866) 927-5646
- Email: ASK-GMD@dhs.gov
- <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/empg/index.shtm>

8) Emergency Management Performance Grant Program

- The Emergency Management Performance (EMPG) Grant Program is intended to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, and interoperable Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs. This program provides funding for construction or renovation of a state, local or tribal governments' principal EOC.

Additional Information:

- Fully capable emergency operations facilities at the state and local levels are an essential element of a comprehensive national emergency management system and are necessary to ensure continuity of operations and continuity of government in major disasters caused by any hazard.

Eligibility:

- The governor of each state and territory is required to designate a State Administrative Agency (SAA) to apply for and administer the funds awarded under the EOC Grant Program. The SAA is the only eligible entity able to apply for the available funding on behalf of eligible state, local, and tribal EOCs.

Contact Information:

- Telephone: (866) 927-5646
- Email: ASK-GMD@dhs.gov
- <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/eoc/index.shtm>

9) FM Global Fire Prevention Grant Program

- FM Global is pleased to offer financial support to organizations working to combat fire. Through our new Fire Prevention Grant Program, fire departments and brigades, as well as national, state, regional, local and community organizations can apply for funding to support a wide array of fire prevention, preparedness and control efforts.

Additional Information:

- The funding mainly revolves around pre-fire planning for commercial, industrial and institutional facilities, fire and arson prevention and investigation, and fire prevention education and training programs.

Contact:

- Website: <http://www.fmglobal.com/page.aspx?id=01060200>

10) The State Fire Assistance (SFA) Program

- The State Fire Assistance (SFA) program objectives are to maintain and improve protection efficiency and effectiveness on non-Federal lands through training, equipment, preparedness, prevention and education. The program provides support directly to state forest fire protection organizations to enhance the firefighting capacity of state, local and rural organizations. There are three areas of emphasis: Preparedness, Hazard Mitigation and Fire Prevention.

Eligibility:

- State forest fire protection organizations

Contact:

- More Information:
<http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/communities/>

Section II

Facility Development

1) Community Facilities Grant Program

- The Community Facilities Grant Program provides assistance for rural areas & towns up to populations of 20,000 to construct, enlarge, or improve essential community facilities. Grants can be used for real estate and equipment such as fire stations and fire trucks.

Eligibility:

- Rural areas & towns up to populations of 20,000.

Contact:

- Ms. Gail Giannotta
Telephone Number: (315) 477-6429

2) USDA Rural Public Safety Agency Grant and Loan Program

- Grant funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and community and public services. This can include the purchase of equipment required for a facility's operation. A grant may be made in combination with other CF financial assistance such as a direct or guaranteed loan, applicant contributions, or loans and grants from other sources.

Eligibility:

- Applicable fire departments.

Contact:

- More Information:
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/brief_cp_grant.htm
Telephone: 202-720-4323

Section III

Community Outreach

1) Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grants

- 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 arsenal 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.

Eligibility:

- Any organization that has experience in fire prevention activities or that conducts research in fire safety activities is eligible to apply for this grant opportunity.

Contact:

- Contact Information:
Contact Email: firegrants@dhs.gov
Contact Phone: 866-274-0960
Website: <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/fpsgrants/index.shtm>

2) Firefighters Charitable Foundation Grants

- The following grants are available for organizations that meet the specific grant requirements:

Community Smoke Detector Program - 3 grants of \$500.00 each totaling \$1,500.00

This grant is available for Volunteer Fire Departments, Safe Kids Coalitions, Social Service Agencies to assist with implementation of a smoke detector, battery replacement program in their local community. Applicants should fill out the Apply for Grants Form.

Juvenile Firesetters Program - 10 grants of \$500.00 ea. \$5,000.00

This grant is available for any Fire Department (Volunteer or Paid) or a Social Service Agency wishing to implement a Juvenile Firesetters Program. The grant includes a \$500.00 cash award to help offset the initial costs of setting up the program with items such as Audio/Visual Equipment, Printing, etc. and a copy of the Broward County, Florida Fire Marshall's Office - Juvenile Firesetters Program Implementation Guide.

Eligibility:

- Grants allocated based on need.

Contact:

- Organization: Firefighters Charitable Foundation
Telephone Number: 516-249-0332
Point of Contact: Frank Tepedino
Website: <http://www.ffcf.org>

3) HUD Good Neighbor Next Door Program

- Full-time Public Safety Officers including Police Officers, Firefighters and EMTs can buy a HUD-owned home at 50% of the market value of the home. Eligible Single Family homes located in revitalization areas are listed exclusively for sales through the Good Neighbor Next Door Sales program. Properties are available for purchase through the program for five days.

Eligibility:

- Public Safety Officers including Police Officers, Firefighters and EMTs.

Contact:

- Telephone Number: (800) 211-0621
<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/hudprograms/gnnd>

4) State Farm Safe Neighbors Grant

- State Farm is committed to meeting the needs of our communities by focusing our giving in three areas: Safe Neighbors (safety), Strong Neighborhoods (community development), and Education Excellence (education).

Additional Information:

- Projects include can include improving driver, vehicle, and roadway safety, shielding homes from fires, criminals, and natural disasters, supporting disaster preparedness programs and recovery services.
- Additionally they can enhance personal financial security RESTORE funds may be used to pay for the cost of emergency repairs to eliminate hazardous conditions in homes owned by the elderly when the homeowners cannot afford to make the repairs in a timely fashion.

Eligibility:

- Grant requests for local initiatives are considered by State Farm field offices. Each office determines the types of grants it will fund, based on available funding. State Farm makes charitable contributions to nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3)

of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, Canadian charitable organizations, educational institution, and governmental entities.

Contact:

- Website: http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/cogrants.asp
Telephone Number: 1-800-447-4930

5) MetLife Foundation Grants

- MetLife Foundation's grants are intended to help strengthen communities, promote good health and improve education. MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 by MetLife for the purpose of supporting educational, health and civic and cultural organizations. Our goals are to strengthen communities, promote good health and improve education. The Foundation continues a tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement begun by MetLife in the 19th century. Requests are accepted and reviewed throughout the year. Requests and supporting materials are carefully evaluated by MetLife Foundation.

Eligibility:

- MetLife Foundation makes contributions only to organizations that have been granted exemption from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Grants are not made to: Private foundations; religious, fraternal, political, athletic, social or veterans organizations; hospitals; individuals; organizations receiving support from United Way; local chapters of national organizations; disease-specific organizations; labor groups; organizations whose activities are mainly international; organizations primarily engaged in patient care or direct treatment, drug treatment centers and community health clinics; elementary and secondary schools; endowments; courtesy advertising or festival participation.

Contact:

- Website: <http://www.metlife.com/about/corporate-profile/citizenship/metlife-foundation>
Telephone Number: 800-638-5433

6) The National Law Enforcement and Firefighters Children's Foundation

- The National Law Enforcement and Firefighters Children's Foundation (NLEAFCF) is dedicated to helping children of law enforcement and firefighting personnel by providing financial support to both children who have lost a parent in the line of duty or had a parent become permanently disabled in the line of duty, as well as families enduring significant financial hardships due to tragic circumstances.

Additional Information:

- The NLEAFCF also supports, promotes, and facilitates educational activities and programs created and operated by law enforcement and firefighting organizations whose purpose is to benefit children or the community at large. For example, the NLEAFCF has given grants to FDNY Foundation programs that help promote CPR training in local communities, as well as Law Enforcement Explorers programs in the NYC area.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be a child of a law enforcement agent/officer or firefighter who lost his/her life in the line of duty or a law enforcement and firefighting organization. Law Enforcement agent and firefighter personnel families are also eligible when there is an extreme need due to tragic circumstances. Candidates are required to demonstrate financial need and the amount of the grant varies and depends on the current financial state of the family/candidate.

Contact:

- Ms. Alexandra Nigolian
Website: www.nleafcf.org
Telephone: (646) 822-4236
<http://www.nleafcf.org/grants>

Section IV

State Grants

1) Department of Environmental Conservation

Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants

- From this appropriation, fire departments in approximately 200 rural communities will receive 50/50 matching funds, up to the amount of their grant award, for the purchase of firefighting equipment. As an example, a fire department awarded a \$1000 grant would need to expend \$2000 on their project to receive the \$1000 grant award.

Additional Information:

- Only expenses directly related to fire suppression are eligible for funding. These include purchasing portable pumps, portable backpack pumps, hand tools, hose, light-weight fireproof clothing (Nomex), hard hats, turnout gear, personal protective equipment, portable radios, generators and dry hydrants. Expenditures not directly related to firefighting, such as acquisition of land, construction of buildings and facilities, major apparatus purchases and maintenance items are not eligible for funding.

Eligibility:

- The following are eligible for this funding:
 - A single fire department serving a rural area or a rural community with a population of 10,000 or less is eligible (2000 Census).
 - Area fire departments (fire districts, townships, etc.) may serve an aggregate population of greater than 10,000 as long as the service area of the fire department includes a rural area or a rural community having a population of 10,000 or less. The VFA funding must be used to benefit the rural population.
 - A single county or town with a population over 10,000 that is served by two or more fire districts operating entirely within the bounds of the county or town may qualify as long as the service area of a given fire department includes a rural area or a rural community or the population of the fire department's jurisdiction is 10,000 or less. The VFA funding must be used for the rural area.
 - A single community with a population greater than 10,000 and having a single fire department with one or more fire stations may qualify. The fire department must have a service area that includes a rural area or community where the population does not exceed 10,000. The VFA funding must be used only for the benefit of the rural population. Similarly a single community with a population greater than 10,000 that also provides fire protection to an adjoining rural community of 10,000 or less

population by contract may also be eligible provided the VFA funding is used entirely to support the rural community.

Contact:

- <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2364.html>



Section VII

Letters of Support from Senator Gillibrand

While Senator Gillibrand does NOT decide which organizations are awarded grants, there are instances in which it is appropriate for the Senator Gillibrand to write a letter of support for an application. If you wish to request a letter of support for your application, you must supply Senator Gillibrand with the following:

1. A description of your organization,
2. Summary of the application,
3. a description of what the money will be used for, and
4. a draft letter of support

Please forward this information to the nearest regional office:

Capital District

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
Leo W. O'Brien Federal Office Building
11A Clinton Avenue
Room 821
Albany, NY 12207
Tel: (518) 431-0120
Fax: (518) 431-0128

Buffalo/Western New York

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
Larkin at Exchange
726 Exchange Street, Suite 511
Buffalo, NY 14210
Tel: (716) 854-9725
Fax: (716) 854-9731

Long Island

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
155 Pinelawn Road
Suite 250 North
Melville, NY 11747
Tel: (631) 249-2825
Fax: (631) 249-2847

New York City

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
780 Third Avenue
Suite 2601
New York, New York 10017
Tel. (212) 688-6262
Fax (866) 824-6340

North Country

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
PO Box 273
Lowville, NY 13367
Tel. (315) 376-6118
Fax (315) 376-6118

Rochester Region

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Rochester, NY 14614
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Fax (585) 263-6247

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Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
James M. Hanley Federal Building
100 South Clinton Street
Room 1470
PO Box 7378

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