

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

How to Navigate the Funding Process

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

New York



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

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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 from relevant federal agencies 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. Its contents are by no means comprehensive and as new programs and opportunities emerge, its contents will be updated to provide New Yorkers with the most up-to-date information possible.

My Senate website (www.gillibrand.senate.gov) is continually updated with critical information about various funding opportunities that are available to you, how to access them, and where to apply. You can also request hard copies of this guidebook, and other thematic funding guidebooks, by filling out the guidebook order form at the end of this guidebook and mailing it back to my New York City office or by emailing an electronic copy to grants@gillibrand.senate.gov. As you move forward with any grant opportunities, please contact Andrew Usyk, my Grants Director, for letters of support when applicable. You can reach him in my Washington, D.C. office at grants@gillibrand.senate.gov, or (202)-224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Section I

Equipment, Training and Staffing

1) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

- The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service 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.

Additional Information:

- There is a cost share match associated with this grant. Grantee cost sharing, unless modified by waiver, shall be either 5%, 10%, or 15% and shall be based on the population of the jurisdiction(s) served by the applicants.
- This grant can be used to support the efforts to build and sustain core capabilities across the Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery mission areas

Eligibility:

- Fire Departments
- Nonaffiliated EMS Organizations
- State Fire Training Academy

Contact:

- Telephone: (866) 274-0960
- Email: firegrants@fema.gov

2) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants

- The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to help them increase or maintain 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 the NFPA (NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720).

Additional Information:

- There is no cost sharing or matching requirement
- SAFER Grants can be used to:
 - Hire new firefighters
 - Rehire firefighters that have been laid off
 - Retain firefighters who are facing immediate layoffs
 - Filling of positions that were vacated through attrition

Eligibility:

- Fire Departments
 - Career
 - Volunteer
 - Combination Fire Departments
- Ambulance Services, EMS Organizations, rescue squads and urban search and rescue organizations are **NOT ELIGIBLE**

Contact:

- Telephone: (866) 274-0960
Email: firegrants@dhs.gov

3) 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:

- Lynne Korona
Email: rangers@gw.dec.state.ny.us
Telephone: 518-402-8835
Website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2364.html>

4) 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:

- Lynne Korona
State FEPP Coordinator
Telephone: 518-402-8835
Email: lmkorona@gw.dec.state.ny.us
Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/fepp/index.html>

5) 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:

- Email: heritage@ffic.com
Website: <http://www.firemansfund.com/heritage/Pages/heritage.aspx>

6) 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
Website: <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/empg/index.shtm>

7) 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:

- Telephone: (866) 927-5646
Email: ASK-GMD@dhs.gov
Website: <http://www.fema.gov/fy-2013-emergency-management-performance-grants-empg-program-0>

8) FM Global Fire Prevention Grant Program

- FM Global offers financial support to organizations working to combat fire. Through its 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:

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

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:

- Telephone: (315) 477-6400
Website: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/had-cf_grants.html

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:

- Telephone: (315) 477-6400
Website: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/hcf_cf.html

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:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate
Email: firegrants@fema.gov
Telephone: (866) 274-0960
Website: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/89270>

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 percent 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: (800) 225-5342
Website:
http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/sfh/reo/goodn/gnnda_bot

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:

- Telephone: 1-800-447-4930
Website: <https://www.statefarm.com/about-us/community/education-programs/grants-scholarships/company-grants>

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:

- Email: metlifefoundation@metlife.com
Telephone: 1-800-638-5433
Website: <https://www.metlife.com/metlife-foundation/index.html>

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:

- Telephone: (646) 822-4236
Website: <http://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:

- Lynne Korona
NYS DEC Forest Rangers
Telephone: 518-402-8835
Email: rangers@gw.dec.state.ny.us
Website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2364.html>

Section V

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

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
Kenneth B. Keating Federal Office
Building
100 State Street
Room 4195
Rochester, NY 14614
Tel. (585) 263-6250
Fax (585) 263-6247

Syracuse/Central New York

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

Westchester County

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
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