Fire District Resource Guide

4/12/2024

Overview

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), Interagency Recovery Coordination is comprised of six Recovery Support Functions (RSF) teams. The teams are Community Planning & Capacity Building (CPCB), Natural & Cultural Resources (NCR), Health & Social Services (HSS), Economic (ECON), Housing (HSG), and Infrastructure Systems (INF). The role of the RSF teams is to help communities with long-term recovery after disasters strike. This includes help to find additional funding opportunities that fall outside of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and State Public/Individual Assistance

Over the past several years several Fire Departments suffered tremendous impacts that resulted in losses of equipment and staffing. These impacts have caused a significant dearth in the department's ability to carry out it's essential duties to serve the citizens of the City/County. The purpose of this guide is to highlight potential funding and technical resources to support the departments recovery efforts.

The following grants or opportunities were found at the time of publishing this Resource Guide. More opportunities may be found in the future at the following websites:

Federal: https://www.grants.gov/

State of CA: https://www.grants.ca.gov/

Contents

Grant Writing Technical Assistance Support

Fire Engineering – Taking the First Steps for Grant Writing Success	
Program Description	Fire Engineering provides training, education, and management information for fire and emergency services personnel worldwide. *Taking the First Steps for Grant Writing Success* provides a roadmap. for the development of a grant writing team and approach to developing a strong grant application.
Website	https://www.fireengineering.com/grants/taking-the-first-steps-for-grant-writing-success/
Contact Information	David Lewis Director Ex-Officio (Past President) National Volunteer Fire Council Email: David.Lewis@ovfc28.org

IAFF – Grant Writing Assistance	
Program Description	The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Grants Administration Department oversees the IAFF's national grant programs, which total more than $20 million per year. Over the years, the IAFF has funded partnerships with several federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and others. In addition to overseeing national grant programs, the Grants Administration Department coordinates grant reports; manages the program and financial oversight of grant awards; ensures
	compliance with all federal laws, regulations, and executive orders; identifies new sources of funding; and assists with questions and requests for information from IAFF affiliates interested in grants for their departments.
Website	Home - IAFF
Contact Information	Gifty Cobblah, Grants Accountant Phone: (202) 824-1562 Email: grants@iaff.org

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CharityHowTo.com – Free Grant Writing Training

Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	Online training is available for a variety of grant writing training.
Eligibility	Openly available
Application Process	See website
Website	www.charityhowto.com/nonprofit-webinar/free-webinar-nonprofit-grant-strategy
Contact Information	Phone: 617-439-4511 Email: support@charityhowto.com

Introduction to Finding Grants

Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	You will learn the 10 most important things you need to know about finding grants, including: Who funds nonprofits and what are their motivations. • What do funders really want to know about the organizations they are interested in funding. • How do you identify potential funders and make the first approach.
Eligibility	Openly available
Application Process	See website
Website	Introduction to finding grants | Courses | Candid Learning
Contact Information	Home (candid.org)

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Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

Application Deadline	For 2024 funding check website mid-February
Program Description	Grants to provide direct funding to fire departments and volunteer firefighter organizations to assist with increasing the number of firefighters to meet industry standards and attain 24-hour staffing. This to provide adequate protection from fire and fire- related hazards, and to fulfill traditional missions of fire departments.
Eligibility	Fire departments, national fire service interest organizations.
Maximum Award	The previous grant had $360 million available with a projection of 300 awards.
Application Process	https://go.fema.gov/login?redirect=%2F
Website	https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/safer
Contact Information	Email: Firegrants@fema.dhs.gov Phone: 866-274-0960

Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program

Application Period	Reoccurring
Program Description	The following three activities are eligible for funding during FY 2022: • Operations and Safety • Vehicle Acquisition • Regional Projects
Eligibility	Fire departments operating in any of the 50 states
Maximum Award	The previous award was $324 million in funding available through the NOFO with a projected number of 2,000 awards. The period of performance for each award is 24 months.
Application Process	https://www.fema.gov/media-collection/fy-2021-assistance-firefighters-grant-afg-application-guidance-materials
Website	https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters
Contact Information	Email: FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov

National Fire Academy (NFA) Free Training

Application Process	Apply between Dec. 15 and Jan. 15
Program Description	In-person firefighter courses are offered at the National Fire Academy (NFA) Training Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. Travel expenses are paid for by NFA for eligible students. Free online courses are also available, whether self-directed or instructor led.
Eligibility	Professional and volunteer fire department personnel
Application Process	[National Emergency Training Center Admissions Office (fema.gov)](#)
Website	[National Fire Academy Online Courses (fema.gov)](#)
Contact Information	Best time to reach NFA is between 0800 to 1600 ET M-F. Phone: 301-447-1035, FAX: 301-447-1441 Switchboard: 800-238-3358

Homeland Security National Training Program Continuing Training Grants

Application Deadline	For the next fiscal year check back in June 2024
Program Description	The Homeland Security National Training Program (HSNTP)/Continuing Training Grants (CTG) provides funding via cooperative agreements to partners to develop and deliver training to prepare communities to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recovery from acts of terrorism and natural, man-made, and technological hazards.
Eligibility	Applicants may include state, local, tribal, and territorial entities; nonprofit national associations and organizations; non-profit higher education institutions; and nonprofits including community and faith-based organizations. Guidance regarding eligibility can be found in the HSNTP/CTG Notice of Funding Opportunity posted on [here](#).

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Application Process	Application Process 1. Find a grant that meets your need or supports your project. 2. Read through the eligibility requirements and application process. 3. If the grant has a cost share with the applicant or recipient, evaluate if you can afford it. 4. Determine your applicant type. (ex. state or non-state, applicant, or sub-applicant) 5. Complete a benefit-cost analysis, if needed 6. Submit application. Note: Each grant has different eligibility requirements and application process
Website	[Homeland Security National Training Program, Continuing Training Grants | FEMA.gov](#)
Contact Information	Applicants may contact FEMA's National Training and Education Division for additional program-specific information: Jessica Sterling Management and Program Analyst Phone: 202-549-4768 Email: jessica.sterling@fema.dhs.gov Terry Pruitt phone Phone: 202-786-9565 Email: terry.pruitt@fema.dhs.gov FEMA Grant Programs Directorate Call Center: 866-927-5646 Email: ASK-GMD@dhs.gov
Timeline for Funding Availability	Continuous

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program

Application Deadline	N/A
Program Description	The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks.
Eligibility	Program Eligibility Requirements • Must be approved by State Coordinator • Must have a Sponsoring Organization • Complete an annual questionnaire on your CERT once per year • Verify Program Manager and sponsor information once per year • Update team registration information once per year in the portal
Maximum Award	Unknown
Application Process	https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/welcome-to-cert
Website	CERT Basic Training | Ready.gov
Contact Information	Email: fema-prepare@fema.dhs.gov
Timeline for Funding Availability	Unknown

Regional Forest and Fire Capacity

Application Deadline	Periodically check website for next funding cycle
Program Description	Conduct regional priority planning. Administer project development activities. Build capacity and sustainability among regional partners. Lead outreach and engagement. or Participate in Task Force efforts to coordinate regions

Eligibility	The Department will provide block grants to regional entities (Regional Block Grantees) and to eligible coordinating organizations (Statewide Block Grantees) to support the statewide implementation of the program.
Maximum Award	The grants funded with these Guidelines utilize the $110 million of General Fund monies appropriated to the Department for the RFFC Program. This funding is available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2026, with full liquidation until June 30, 2028. Up to 5.17 percent of the appropriation may be used by the Department for administrative costs. Should additional funding consistent with the purposes of the RFFC Program become available in future years, the Department may, at its discretion, make new grants or allocate funding to increase grants funded under these Guidelines.
Website	[Regional Forest and Fire Capacity — California Climate Investments](#)
Contact Information	Program Manager: Brian Newman-Lindsay brian.newman-lindsay@conservation.ca.gov Program Specialist: Jenny DiStefano Jenny.E.DiStefano@conservation.ca.gov
Timeline for Funding Availability	Unknown

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Scholarship Program	
Application Deadline	Program will be available in February 2024 check website for updated information
Program Description	Scholarship for high school seniors or graduates, or current college undergraduates, who plan to enroll in a firefighter, law enforcement, or emergency medical technician full-time or part-time course at a 2-year or 4-year accredited college, university, or vocational school for the entire upcoming year.

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Eligibility	Available to community applicants and Firehouse Subs employees that meet the following requirement: • High school seniors or graduates, or current college undergraduates, that plan to enroll in a part-time or full-time Firefighter, Law Enforcement, or an Emergency Medical Paramedic or EM Program at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school for the entire upcoming academic year. Note: Firehouse Subs employees must be employed for a minimum of six months with the company as of the application deadline.
Maximum Award	$5,000
Application Process	https://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/firehousesubsfoundation/ See Required Documents
Website	https://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/firehousesubsfoundation/
Contact Information	Email: firehousesubsfoundation@scholarshipamerica.org
Timeline for Funding Availability	Continuous

California Fire Foundation – Firefighter Candidate Testing Center (FCTC) Grants

Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	Provides grants to cover event fees associated with the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) and the FCTC Written Test.
Eligibility	For individuals who demonstrate financial hardship. There are several avenues an applicant can take to qualify for the CFF Grant.
Maximum Award	(2) CPAT Practices @ $30 each (1) CPAT Test and (2) Orientations @ $160 (1) FCTC Written Test Preparation Course @ $25 (1) FCTC Written Test @ $50
Application Process	Contact at FCTC@cpf.org, or leave message at (877) 648-2728.
Website	For Grant Seekers | California Fire Foundation (cafirefoundation.org)

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Contact Information	Email: FCTC@cpf.org FAX: 916-922-0972
Timeline for Funding Availability	Ongoing

Fire Equipment Grants & Loans

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) State Assistance for Fire Equipment Act Program	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	Cal OES has surplus apparatus available for purchase. These apparatus come with a standard complement of equipment, excluding radios.
Eligibility	Fire districts, local governments
Maximum Award	N/A
Application Process	Contact Cal OES for application.
Website	Surplus Fire Equipment | California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Contact Information	Please email Fleet Staff Email: Fire.Rescue.Fleet-Repairs@caloes.ca.gov
Timeline for Funding Availability	N/A

USDA Rural Development – Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant	
Application Period	Ongoing
Program Description	Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and to pay related project expenses

Eligibility	Public agencies, community-based nonprofit corporations, and federally recognized tribes. Priority is given to small communities with a population of 5,500 or less, and to low-income communities with a median household income below 80% of the state non-metropolitan median household income. Other requirements apply authority to borrow money and manage projects, inability to finance the project from their own resources, facility must service the rural community where they are located, project must have substantial community support, and environmental review must be completed/acceptable.
Maximum Award	Dollar amount not disclosed. Direct loans and grants are available. Grants are limited to a sliding scale of total eligible project costs based on population and median household income data, starting from 75% and going down to 15%.
Application Process	Contact local USDA Rural Development office to discuss specific project and begin application process.
Website	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program
Contact Information	Ca.info@usda.gov
Timeline for Funding Availability	Ongoing

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grants

Application Deadline	The grant portal will open on October 12, 2023, and will only allow 600 applications per quarter. Below is the 2024 schedule. The grant portal opens at 10 AM ET on the following dates: • Quarter 1 2024: Thursday, October 12, 2023 • Quarter 2 2024: Thursday, January 11, 2024 • Quarter 3 2024: Thursday, April 4, 2024 • Quarter 4 2024: Thursday, July 11, 2024 • Quarter 1 2025: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Program Description	Provides lifesaving equipment and prevention education tools to first responders, non-profits, and public safety organizations. All requests must fall within strict funding guidelines. Applicants must study "Grant Application FAQs' document very carefully before applying.
Eligibility	Highly competitive, early applications are encouraged. Only 600 applications per quarter are considered. Grants do not cover equipment that is already purchased, refurbished equipment, or patent-pending equipment. Favorable consideration is given to applicants within 60 miles of a Firehouse Subs restaurant (Grizzly Flats is within 60 miles of the restaurant in Folsom, CA).
Maximum Award	$50,000 maximum; grant awards are generally between $15,000 to $25,000.
Application Process	By website – https://grants.firehousesubs.com/
Website	https://firehousesubsfoundation.org
Contact Information	Email: Foundation@firehousesubs.com
Timeline for Funding Availability	Unknown

Brothers Helping Brothers – Equipment Grants / Available Used Equipment Donations	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	The Brothers Helping Brothers brand raises funds to provide vital tools and equipment to small and/or rural fire departments.
Eligibility	Applicant organization must serve a population of fewer than 10,000 people, or organization must have less than 30 employees. Fire department or EMS organization must operate in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia. Majority of employees must be volunteer or paid-per-call personnel. Equipment grants as well as gently used equipment are provided; equipment may be donated instead of funding.
Maximum Award	Not provided. Total value of equipment donated to date is $83,700.

Application Process	https://www.brothershelpingbrothers.org/grant-request/
Website	www.brothershelpingbrothers.org
Contact Information	Phone: (937) 999-1355 Email: contactus@brothershelpingbrothers.org
Timeline for Funding Availability	Ongoing