1. May 5, 2020 Meeting Agenda
   Documents:
   05052020 AGENDA.PDF

2. May 5, 2020 Agenda Material
   Documents:
   05052020 AGENDA MATERIAL.PDF

3. May 5, 2020 Final Agenda
   Documents:
   05052020 AGENDA.DOCX_FINAL.PDF
The Georgia Conflict of Interest in Zoning Action Statue (O.C.G.A. §§ 36-67A-1 et seq.) requires disclosure of certain campaign contributions made by applicants for rezoning actions and by opponents of rezoning application. A rezoning applicant or opponent of a rezoning application must disclose contributions or gifts which in aggregate total $250.00 or more if made within the last two years to a current member of Effingham County Planning Board, Board of Commissioners, or other Effingham County official who will consider the application. The campaign contribution disclosure requirement applies to an opponent of a rezoning application who publishes his or her opposition by appearance before the Planning Board or Board of Commissioners or by any other oral or written communication to a member or members of the Planning Board or Board of Commissioners. Disclosure must be reported to the Board of Commissioners by applicants within ten (10) days after the rezoning application is filed and by opponents at least five (5) days prior to the first hearing by the Planning Board. Any person knowing failing to comply with these requirements shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

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Staff Report

Subject: Annual renewal of Accountability Court Agreement (Mental Health/Drug Court).
Author: Alison Bruton, Purchasing Tech.,
Department: Purchasing
Meeting Date: 05-05-2020
Item Description: Accountability Court Renewal

Summary Recommendation: Approval to renew

Executive Summary/Background:
- The Board has an Intergovernmental Agreement in place with the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Accountability Court. The Accountability Court is a combined Drug and Mental Health Treatment Court. Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge Michael T. Muldrew has previously stated that the Accountability Court is growing rapidly and lives are being positively impacted through the support of the Board of Commissioners through this agreement.
- The County has a considerable amount of criminal offenders that have drug and mental health issues.
- This court is attempting to achieve a reduction in recidivism as well as offering real help to mentally ill offenders in criminal cases, which should increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation of drug addicted criminals through early, continuous, and intense judicially supervised treatment options.
- This option and last chance court is not only good policy but good community service that can change lives.
- The cost to Effingham County for FY19 was $8,834.44, and year to date for FY20 is $9,036.00.
- The County attorney has previously reviewed and approved to form the intergovernmental agreement.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider
1. Approve renewal of agreement for FY21.
2. Do not approve renewal of agreement for FY21.

Recommended Alternative: 1
Other Alternatives: 2
Department Review: Purchasing
Funding Source: Included in current budget
Attachments: Accountability Court Agreement
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH/DRUG COURT FOR THE OGEECHEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

This INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made and entered into as of the 11th day of December, 2018 by and between BULLOCH COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, acting by and through its governing authority, the BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA (hereinafter referred to as "Bulloch County"); EFFINGHAM COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, acting by and through its governing authority, the BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF EFFINGHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA (hereinafter referred to as "Effingham County"); JENKINS COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, acting by and through its governing authority, the BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF JENKINS COUNTY, GEORGIA (hereinafter referred to as "Jenkins County"); SCREVEN COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia acting by and through its governing authority, the BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SCREVEN COUNTY, GEORGIA (hereinafter referred to as "Screven County"); and the SUPERIOR COURTS OF THE OGEECHEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Court").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, all of the above parties are concerned about the impact of mental health in the criminal justice system and the frequency of illegal drug use and the related criminal activity which is occurring in our local communities; and

WHEREAS, all of the above parties have declared that pro-active intervention is an appropriate recognized means of curtailing the problem of related mental health impacts and drug abuse in our local communities and criminal justice systems; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 15-1-15 provides that any court that has jurisdiction over any criminal case which arises from the use, sale, possession, delivery, distribution, purchase, or manufacture of a controlled substance, noncontrolled substance, dangerous drug, or other drug may establish a drug court division to provide an alternative to the traditional judicial system for disposition of such cases; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 15-1-16 provides that to achieve a reduction in recidivism and symptoms of mental illness among mentally ill offenders in criminal cases and to increase their likelihood of successful rehabilitation through early, continuous, and intense judicially supervised treatment, any court that has jurisdiction over a criminal case in which a defendant has a mental illness or developmental disability, or a co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorder, may establish a mental health court division to provide an alternative to the traditional judicial system for disposition of such cases; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 15-1-15 and 15-1-16 the Court has established a Drug and Mental Health Court Division (hereinafter referred to as the “Drug/Mental Health Court”) for the Superior Courts in the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit; and

1
WHEREAS, Bulloch County, as subgrantee, has requested and received One Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Six Hundred and Forty-Seven and 00/100 Dollars ($166,647.00) in State Fiscal Year (hereinafter referred to as “SFY”) 2019 for the operation of the Drug/Mental Health Court pursuant to Grant Number #J-19-8-057 from the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; and

WHEREAS, Grant Number #J-19-8-057 from the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council requires a cash match of ten percent (10%) in the amount of Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen and 00/100 Dollars ($18,516.00) out of a cumulative grant budget of One Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Three and 00/100 Dollars ($185,163.00); and

WHEREAS, Bulloch County as subgrantee has requested supplemental grant funding in the amount of Forty Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Six and 00/100 Dollars ($40,326.00) in SFY 2019 for expanding the operation of the Drug/Mental Health Court to Effingham County, Jenkins County and Screven County, with the award yet to be determined by the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; and

WHEREAS, the yet-to-be determined grant award from the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council requires a cash match of ten percent (10%) in the amount of Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighty and 00/100 Dollars ($4,480.00) out of a cumulative grant budget of Forty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Six and 00/100 Dollars ($44,806.00); and

WHEREAS, all of the parties desire to participate in the funding and operation of the Drug/Mental Health Court on the terms and conditions set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, all of the parties are authorized to enter into this Agreement in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section III, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the State of Georgia;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and obligations set forth herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Bulloch County, Effingham County, Jenkins County, and Screven County hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I
DEFINITIONS

1.1 “Council of Accountability Court Judges” (hereinafter referred to as “CACJ”) means the council established pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-1-18.

1.2 “Criminal Justice Coordinating Council” (hereinafter referred to as “CJCC”) means the council established pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 35-6A-1 et seq.

1.3 “Drug/Mental Health Court Coordinator” means the person funded by the CJCC grant and employed by Bulloch County to provide non-judicial program oversight for the Drug/Mental Health Court and to adhere to CJCC/CACJ policies and procedures.
1.4 "Drug/Mental Health Court Judge" means the person responsible for the Drug/Mental Health Court.

1.5 "Fiscal Quarter" means each three-month period beginning on July 1, October 1, January 1 and April 1.

1.6 Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Mental Health/Drug Court (hereinafter referred to as "Drug/Mental Health Court") means that certain Drug/Mental Health Court division established pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 15-1-15 and 15-1-16 to provide an alternative sentencing program for eligible participants who have criminal charges relating to either drug use or possession or mental health issues under the jurisdiction of the Superior Courts of the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit operating in Bulloch County, Effingham County, Jenkins County, and Screven County, Georgia.

1.7 "Participant" means clients who are eligible to receive services from the Drug/Mental Health Court.

1.8 "Participant Agreement" means an agreement between a Participant and the Drug/Mental Health Court that requires the Participant to abide by certain terms and conditions to complete the program successfully.

1.9 "Service Provider" means entities who are qualified to provide services that are relevant and useful to Participants to successfully complete the Drug/Mental Health Court program.

1.10 "State Fiscal Year" means July 1 through June 30 on a recurrent basis.

ARTICLE II
SCOPE AND AUTHORITY

2.1 Court’s Duties and Obligations. Without in any way limiting the inherent authority of the Court over judicial proceedings and functions, the Court’s duties and obligations under this Agreement shall be as follows.


2.1.2 Assigning, as appropriate and at its discretion, judges to preside over cases involving the Drug/Mental Health Court, and serving as the final authority for adjudication and management of the Drug/Mental Health Court.

2.1.3 Determining the venue for adjudication of cases involving Participants in the Drug/Mental Health Court.
2.1.4. As appropriate or necessary, entering into contracts or memoranda of understanding with qualified Service Providers for Participant counseling, treatment or care.

2.2 **Bullock County’s Duties and Obligations as Fiscal Agent.** Bullock County shall act as the fiscal agent for the Drug/Mental Health Court and shall have the following duties and obligations with regard thereto.

2.2.1 Bullock County shall be responsible for ongoing fiscal oversight and financial reporting of the Drug/Mental Health Court.

2.2.2 Bullock County shall receive and be responsible for proper accounting, management, and expenditure of any funds received for operation of the Drug/Mental Health Court. Such funds may include but are not necessarily limited to: (i) any grant funds received from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; (ii) any funds received from Effingham County, Jenkins County, or Screven County pursuant to this Agreement; (iii) Participant fees; and (iv) funds from any other federal, state, local, or private sources that are restricted to or intended for operation of the Drug/Mental Health Court. Disbursement and allocation of funds shall be at the direction of the Drug/Mental Health Court Coordinator and/or Judge, and in accordance with CJCC and CACJ policies and procedures and the annual budget adopted by the governing authority of Bullock County.

2.2.3 The Drug/Mental Health Court Coordinator and any other personnel serving under his or her supervision shall be employees of Bullock County and shall be eligible for the same benefits and subject to the same personnel and other policies as all other Bullock County employees. The Drug/Mental Health Court Coordinator shall be supervised, evaluated, disciplined, and/or terminated by the Drug/Mental Health Court Judge.

2.2.4 Bullock County shall ensure that the Drug/Mental Health Court Coordinator prepares and submits all proposed annual plans, grant applications, requests for financial reimbursement, budget proposals, and amendments or modifications thereof for approval and authorization by the Court, Bullock County, Effingham County, Jenkins County, Screven County, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the Council of Accountability Court Judges, and/or other appropriate agencies.

2.2.5 Bullock County shall develop and maintain financial accounts and records for the Drug/Mental Health Court according to the Uniform Chart of Accounts as administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

2.2.6 Bullock County shall authorize and execute such contracts, expenditure authorizations, purchase orders and/or other financial documents as are necessary for the operation of the Drug/Mental Health Court, consistent with federal and
state laws, regulations or guidelines and with Bulloch County’s personnel, financial and administrative policies and procedures.

2.2.7 Title to all equipment and other personal property purchased, operated, and/or maintained with funds from grants, cash matches or other sources shall vest in Bulloch County and be used for Drug/Mental Health Court related purposes. If the Drug/Mental Health Court ceases operation, or if any such equipment or other personal property can no longer be used for its grant-funded purpose, the CJCC and CACJ will be informed of the available equipment and determine its future use to assure it is utilized in furtherance of the goals and objectives of the grant program and the State of Georgia. Bulloch County will execute a bill of sale or any other necessary documentation to convey title as directed by CJCC and/or CACJ. In the event that CJCC and/or CACJ has no use for the available equipment, Bulloch County may dispose of the equipment in accordance with its policies.

ARTICLE III
FUNDING AND COST REIMBURSEMENT

3.1 Duties and Obligations of Bulloch County, Effingham County, Jenkins County, and Screven County for Funding and Cost Reimbursement. Bulloch County, Effingham County, Jenkins County, and Screven County (the “Counties”) hereby agree to the following terms and conditions for funding and cost reimbursement for the Drug/Mental Health Court.

3.1.1 Matching cost requirements for grants awarded by the CJCC for the Drug/Mental Health Court, or any other grantor agency with similar requirements, shall be apportioned among the Counties by the population distribution of the most recent official decennial enumeration by the United States Census Bureau for Bulloch County, Effingham County, Jenkins County, and Screven County.

3.1.2 Direct expenses that are paid for by Bulloch County that support the Drug/Mental Health Court, but are not reimbursed by grant funds, including but not limited to personnel, liability insurance, utilities, office space, cell phones or allowances, information technology services and maintenance, and/or furniture, fixtures or equipment as identified in Bulloch County’s annual General Appropriations Budget, shall be apportioned among the Counties by the population distribution of the most recent official decennial enumeration by the United States Census Bureau for Bulloch County, Effingham County, Jenkins County, and Screven County.

3.1.3 While the percentage distribution may change in the future, the parties acknowledge that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, the population distribution of the most recent official decennial enumeration by the United States Census Bureau results in the following percentages for the financial obligations in
Sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2: Bulloch County – 47%; Effingham County – 38%; Jenkins County – 6%; and Screven County – 9%.

3.1.4. Any Participant fees assessed by the Court for participation in the Drug/Mental Health Court shall be transmitted to Bulloch County and deposited into a restricted fund, and shall only be expended for non-personnel costs for the sole use and benefit of the Participants, including but not necessarily limited to educational and training materials, care and treatment, transportation to receive services, drug testing expenses, and counseling services. Participant Agreements shall include a certification that such fees are for a legitimate expense for the use and/or benefit of the Participants. Bulloch County shall not be obligated to reduce or credit such expenses toward matching cost requirements for grants, referenced in Section 3.1.1, or for other direct expenses referenced in Section 3.1.2 of this Article.

3.1.5. Bulloch County shall submit requests for reimbursement pursuant to Sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 to Effingham County, Jenkins County, and Screven County on a quarterly basis within twenty (20) calendar days of the close of each Fiscal Quarter. Such requests for reimbursement will include the amount due from each county with supporting documentation including revenue and expense reports with cash balances for fees from Participants.

3.1.6. Effingham County, Jenkins County and Screven County shall then have twenty-five (25) calendar days upon the receipt of the reimbursement request to tender appropriate funds to Bulloch County.

ARTICLE IV
TERM AND TERMINATION

4.1 Initial Term and Automatic Renewal. The initial term of this Agreement shall be for one year commencing on July 1, 2018 and ending on June 30, 2019. Thereafter, this Agreement shall automatically renew for additional one-year terms commencing each July 1 unless any of the parties notifies the other parties of its intention not to renew at least ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of the then-current term.

4.2 Termination. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 4.1, any party may terminate this Agreement at any time upon providing at least ninety (90) days’ notice to the other parties.

4.3 Survival of Accrued Financial Obligations. Any financial obligations of the parties pursuant to this Agreement that have accrued upon termination or nonrenewal of this Agreement shall survive such termination or nonrenewal and shall be promptly paid.

ARTICLE V
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
5.1 **Default or Breach; Dispute Resolution; Remedies.**

5.1.1 In the event that any party to this Agreement alleges that any other party is in default or breach of any of the terms, conditions or covenants of this Agreement, the party alleging default or breach may give the other party written notice that specifies the alleged default or breach. The party alleging default or breach shall also send a copy of such notice to the other parties that are not alleged to be in default or breach. The party allegedly in default or breach shall have thirty (30) days to cure the alleged default or breach before the other party may pursue dispute resolution as set forth herein.

5.1.2 In the event the party allegedly in default or breach of this Agreement fails to cure the alleged default or breach within thirty (30) days after receiving written notice of same, the party alleging default or breach may send a written demand for mediation to the party allegedly in default or breach. The party alleging default or breach shall also send a copy of such written demand to the other parties that are not alleged to be in default or breach. The parties agree that in the event one party makes a written demand for mediation upon another party in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, all parties shall participate in good faith in such mediation in an attempt to resolve their dispute or disputes. The parties further agree to share equally the cost of such mediation. Participation in such mediation shall be a condition precedent to the initiation of litigation pursuant to Section 5.1.3.

5.1.3 In the event the parties cannot resolve their dispute or disputes through mediation, any party alleging a default or breach of this Agreement by any other party may pursue litigation against the other party, and the other parties shall join the litigation if they are deemed necessary parties. The parties agree that jurisdiction and venue for any litigation initiated pursuant to this Agreement shall exclusively be in the Superior Court of Bulloch County, Georgia. The parties also consent to the assignment of a judge from outside the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit for such litigation to avoid any real or perceived conflict of interest. The parties further agree that, in addition to any other legal or equitable remedies, the prevailing party or parties may recover attorneys’ fees and court costs from the non-prevailing party or parties.

5.1.4 The rights and remedies provided in this Agreement are cumulative and not exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies the parties may have at law or equity.

5.2 **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties hereto and all understandings, representations, and agreements between them. Each party warrants to the other that no agent, officer, employee, attorney or other representative of any party has made any representation or statement, nor are there any other agreements or understandings between or among any of the parties or their representatives, upon which any party relies that are not expressed and set forth in writing herein. Any prior
agreements between the parties involving the subject matter of this Agreement are
superseded in their entirety by this Agreement.

5.3 **Notices: Other Documents.**

5.3.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, any notices, demands, approvals, consents, requests or other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed as given (i) when the writing is delivered in person; (ii) one business day after being sent by reputable overnight registered delivery service, charges prepaid; or (iii) three business days after being sent by certified mail with sufficient postage affixed thereon, to any of the parties at the addresses shown below, or at such other addresses as may be furnished by the parties from time to time:

If to Bulloch County:

Thomas M. Couch, County Manager (or the then-current County Manager)
115 North Main Street
Statesboro, Georgia 30458
Phone: (912) 764-6245

If to Effingham County:

Chris Hutchings, Interim County Administrator (or then the current County Administrator)
601 North Laurel Street
Springfield, Georgia 31329
(912) 754-2123

If to Jenkins County:

Grady Saxon, County Manager (or then the current County Manager)
Post Office Box 797
Millen, Georgia 30442
(478) 982-2563

If to Screven County:

Rick Jordan, County Manager (or then the current County Manager)
Post Office Box 159
Sylvania, Georgia 30467
(912) 564-7535

If to The Ogeechee Judicial Circuit:

Michael T. Muldrew, Judge (or then the current Accountability Court Judge)
20 Siebald Street
Statesboro, Georgia 30458
(912) 764-9607
5.3.2 The parties shall execute such other and further documents as may be deemed necessary by either party to fulfill the intent of the parties to this Agreement.

5.4 **Time of the Essence.** Time is of the essence of each and every term, provision and covenant of this Agreement.

5.5 **Governing Law.** This Agreement is made and shall be construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia.

5.6 **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original.

5.7 **Amendments.** This Agreement may only be amended, supplemented or otherwise modified by a document in writing duly executed and delivered with the same formality of this Agreement by all of the parties. No waiver, release or similar modification of this Agreement shall be established by conduct, custom, or course of dealing.

5.8 **Severability.** This Agreement is intended to be performed in accordance with, and only to the extent permitted by, all applicable laws, ordinances, rules and regulations. If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, shall be held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Agreement and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby but rather shall be enforced to the greatest extent permitted by law.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** the parties hereto, acting by and through their duly authorized officers, have caused this Agreement to be executed under their respective seals as of the day and year first above written.

[SIGNATURES BEGIN ON NEXT PAGE]
I affirm that this Agreement was duly authorized by the Governing Body at a public meeting with such approval placed on the public record.

By: Roy Thomasson, Chairman

Attent: Olympia Gaines, Clerk of the Board

[SEAL]

I affirm that this Agreement was duly authorized by the Governing Body at a public meeting with such approval placed on the public record.

By: Wesley Corbitt, Chairman

Attent: Stephanie Johnson, Clerk of the Board

[SEAL]

I affirm that this Agreement was duly authorized by the Governing Body at a public meeting with such approval placed on the public record.

By: Hiller Spann, Chairman

Attent: Brittany Shaw, Clerk of the Board

[SEAL]
by the Governing Body at a public meeting with such approval placed on the public record.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SCREVEN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Approved as to form:

By: __________________________

Will Boyd, Chairman

Attest: __________________________

Lori Boulineau, Clerk of the Board

[SEAL]

Hubert Reeves, County Attorney

SUPERIOR COURTS OF THE Ogeechee Judicial Circuit

By: __________________________

F. Gates Reed, Chief Judge

By: __________________________

Michael T. Maldrew, Judge

By: __________________________

Lovett Bennett, Jr., Judge
Staff Report

Subject: Consideration to allow the contract for inmate commissary services at Effingham County Prison with McDaniel Supply Company to renew for a one year term from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Author: Alison Bruton, Purchasing Tech.,
Department: Purchasing
Meeting Date: 05-05-2020
Item Description: Prison Commissary Contract Renewal

Summary Recommendation: Approval to renew

Executive Summary/Background:
- The County has an agreement in place for prison inmate commissary services with McDaniel Supply Company. The term of the agreement is from July 1, 2016 until June 30, 2019, with annual automatic renewals unless terminated.
- McDaniel Supply Company have been the commissary provider since 2016.
- The County receives 41.2% commission on gross sales less tax.
- $58,535.82 has been received this fiscal year to date, and $75,191.64 was received last fiscal year.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider
1. Board approval to allow the contract for inmate commissary services at Effingham County Prison with McDaniel Supply Company to renew for a one year term from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
2. Do not approve the contract for inmate commissary services at Effingham County Prison with McDaniel Supply Company to renew for a one year term from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Recommended Alternative: 1

Other Alternatives: 2

Department Review: Purchasing and Prison

Funding Source: None required – system is ‘turn-key’ with all costs being the responsibility of McDaniel Supply Company.

Attachments: Commissary Contract with McDaniel Supply Company
MCDANIEL SUPPLY COMPANY
COMMISARY SERVICE AGREEMENT

THIS COMMISARY SERVICE AGREEMENT (the “Agreement”), is dated effective as of the 17th day of May, 2020 (the “Effective Date”), by and between Effingham County Board of Commissioners, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia (the “Principal”), for the Effingham County Prison, located at 321 Hwy 119 South, Springfield, Georgia 31329 (the “Facility”), and McDaniel Supply Company, Inc., a Georgia corporation with a principal office located at 1275 East Cherry Street, Jesup, Georgia, 31546 (“MSC”). Each of the Principal and MSC is a “Party” to this Agreement and shall collectively be the “Parties.”

WHEREAS, MSC is in the business of providing commissary services and technologies to inmates on behalf of, and as an agent to, city, county, and state correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Principal desires to avail itself of the commissary services offered by MSC for the purpose of providing materials and supplies to state or county inmates in accordance with the “Legal Authority” as applicable to the Facility provided in Section 13 below;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained herein, and for the mutual benefits to be derived from this Agreement, the Parties, each intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows.

1. Appointment. The Principal hereby appoints MSC as its exclusive supplier of commissary products and services for inmates of the Facility and MSC accepts and assumes such appointment.

2. Scope of Service. MSC hereby agrees to perform all services (collectively, the “Services”) in accordance with the terms stated in the Request for Proposals No. 16-16-002 dated March 1, 2016 set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto, and incorporated herein by reference (the “Solicitation”).

3. Premises. The Principal hereby grants to MSC an exclusive, royalty-free, non-sublicensable license, which is irrevocable for the Term of this Agreement, to such space within the Facility necessary to allow MSC to provide Services in accordance with the Solicitation (the “Premises”). The Principal shall ensure that the Premises meet all applicable federal, state, and local laws, codes, and ordinances applicable to occupation of the Premises by a commercial operation including maintenance and repair of all structural elements thereof. The Principal covenants and agrees with MSC that so long as MSC keeps and performs all the covenants and conditions to be kept and performed by MSC under this Agreement, MSC shall have quiet, undisturbed, and continued possession of the Premises, free from all claims of any kind, nature,
or description. The Principal shall provide MSC with sufficient and reliable security services for the Premises and utility services (including water, sewage, electricity, gas (as necessary), HVAC, and telephone within the Premises) (collectively, the “Utilities”), and shall maintain the Premises in good repair. The Principal shall reimburse MSC for any costs or expenses incurred by MSC to maintain or repair the Premises.

4. Equipment.

A. MSC Obligations. During the Term of this Agreement and in accordance with the Solicitation, MSC agrees:

(i) to install all necessary equipment, materials, supplies, tools, labor, insurance, accessories and services necessary to provide the Services as well as any software to support such equipment (the “Equipment”);

(ii) to provide standard maintenance, repair, or replacement of the Equipment, including on-site support during business hours, 24/7 telephone support, custom enhancements, and periodic updates as necessary to provide the Services, but not including custom programming services, training, or troubleshooting for any hardware or equipment not owned by MSC; and

(iii) to maintain insurance in accordance with the guidelines provided in the Solicitation or, if none, in customary, commercially reasonable amounts.

B. Principal Obligations. During the Term of this Agreement and in accordance with the Solicitation, the Principal agrees:

(i) to maintain reasonable security against unauthorized use of or damage to the Equipment and to discontinue use and notify MSC promptly in the event of any irregularities in the functioning of the Equipment. In the event that the Equipment suffers damage caused by an inmate of the Facility, said inmate’s account shall be charged for all expenses related to its repair; and

(ii) to implement and maintain security measures with respect to any software installed by MSC (the “Software”) that effectively restricts access to the Software only to authorized users, and protects the Software from unauthorized use, alteration, access, publication, and distribution. In no event shall such security measures be less restrictive than those the Principal employs to safeguard its most confidential information. In the event of an actual or suspected breach of such security measures, the Principal shall notify MSC within 24 hours.
C. **Proprietary Rights.** MSC retains all rights, title, and interest in the Equipment, including but not limited to, copyrights, database rights, and other neighboring rights, patents, trade secrets, trademarks, service marks, design rights, proprietary information rights and other intellectual property rights as may currently exist or may be developed by MSC anywhere in the world. The Principal shall not (i) copy (other than for back-up purposes), distribute, rent, lease or sublicense all or any portion of the Equipment; (ii) modify or prepare derivative works of any portion of the Equipment; (iii) use the Equipment in a computer-based services business or publicly display visual output of the Equipment, (iv) transmit any portion of the Equipment over a network, by telephone, or electronically using any means; or (v) reverse engineer, decompile or disassemble the Equipment. The Principal shall not change or remove any insignia or lettering on the Equipment and shall conspicuously identify each item of the Equipment by suitable lettering thereon to indicate MSC’s ownership. The Principal shall keep the Equipment free from any and all liens and claims, and shall do or permit no act or thing whereby MSC’s title or rights may be encumbered or impaired.

D. **Warranties; Damage.** MSC makes no representation, warranties, or conditions, express or implied, statutory or otherwise, other than those herein contained. Upon expiration or termination of the Agreement, the Equipment shall be returned unencumbered to MSC in the same condition as when received by the Principal, reasonable wear and tear resulting from proper use thereof alone excepted. To the extent permitted by state or local law, the Principal shall indemnify and hold MSC harmless against and from all loss, damage, expense or penalty arising from any claim or action on account of personal injury or damage to property occasioned by the unauthorized operation, use, handling, or transportation of the Equipment during the Term of the Agreement, but shall be credited with any amounts received by MSC from insurance.

5. **Commissions and Payments.**

A. **Payments.**

i. **Commissions.** MSC agrees to pay the Principal a commission rate of 41.2% on gross sales less sales tax (“**Commissions**”). Commissions will not be paid on non-commissionable sales, including but not limited to, postage stamps, stamped envelopes, etc. Commissions will not be paid on any item the Principal wishes to sell below, at, or near cost. Commissions paid to the Principal shall be paid weekly or otherwise stated by the Principal and shall be delivered to the Principal by the 10th of the following month in which services were rendered.

ii. **Taxes.** MSC agrees to pay all taxes, fees, and other assessments imposed by federal, state, local, and other governmental taxing authorities related to the sales and profits of MSC under this Agreement, except for any taxes based on MSC’s net income.
B. **Inventory.** Subject to Section 18 below, all commissary inventory required to be provided by MSC pursuant to the Services shall be delivered by MSC to the Facility once a week with the weekday of such deliveries to be determined in good faith by both Parties.

C. **Records; Audits.** MSC will maintain and keep on file all records of the Principal's sales for a period of 3 years from the Effective Date of this Agreement. MSC will provide the Principal with records of the Principals' annual sales for the Principal's previous fiscal year each July, and/or upon request. MSC will give the Principal or the Principal’s authorized agent the opportunity to inspect such records which are directly relevant to the Principal’s purchases. The cost of such audit or inspection will be at the expense of the Principal. The examination of records shall be conducted at the location where such records are maintained by MSC.

6. **Term.** This Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and shall continue for an initial term of 36 months unless otherwise extended or terminated as provided herein. This Agreement shall automatically renew for successive terms of 1 year each, unless either Party notifies the other in writing, at least 60 days before the end of any term year of its election not to renew this Agreement. The initial 36-month term together with any 1-year renewal term shall compose the “**Term**” of this Agreement.

7. **Termination**

   A. **Without Cause.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein above or hereinafter set forth, this Agreement may be terminated by either Party at any time without cause or legal excuse by providing the other Party with 60 days’ prior written notice of such termination or by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

   B. **For Cause.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein above or hereinafter set forth, this Agreement may be terminated immediately by either Party at any time upon written notice to the other in any of the following events:

   i. if the other Party shall commit any breach of the terms of this Agreement and shall not (in the case of a breach capable of being remedied) remedy such breach within 30 days after notice has been served on the breaching Party requiring the same to be remedied; or

   ii. if the other Party shall discontinue its business or have any license or permit required of the Party for the normal operation of its business or for the provision of the Services revoked or suspended for 31 days or more; or

   iii. if the other Party becomes insolvent or shall be made the subject of an administration order or a receiver of its assets shall be appointed or it shall go into liquidation (whether voluntary or otherwise) other than a voluntary
liquidation for the purposes of reconstruction and such status is not cured, discharged, or withdrawn within 90 days; or

iv. if the other Party has court-established criminal or fraudulent conduct on the part of: (a) in the case of MSC, its officers, directors, or controlling shareholder(s); or (b) in the case of the Principal, its elected or appointed officials (including any officers or shareholders) in such a manner as to either directly or indirectly affect the operations of the Facility.

C. Such remedy of Termination is in addition to such other remedies as may be available by law or as otherwise stated in this Agreement.

8. Representations and Warranties.

A. Both Parties. Each Party represents and warrants that it: (i) has the full authority and the legal right to enter into this Agreement and perform its obligations hereunder, (ii) has taken all necessary action required to authorize the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the performance of its obligations, and (iii) will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, governmental requirements and standards related to the Services, including, without limitation, product safety laws.

B. MSC. MSC warrants that the commissary price list attached hereto as Exhibit B is subject to ordinary price increases due to market factors beyond the control of MSC.

C. Principal. The Principal represents and warrants that (i) the Facility is owned and/or exclusively operated by the Principal, (ii) the Principal is authorized to enter into this Agreement with respect to the Facility, and (iii) the undersigned is authorized to bind the Facility to this Agreement.


A. By MSC.

i. MSC shall indemnify the Principal against any loss, damage, injury or death caused by MSC’s negligent acts or omissions or the negligent acts or omissions of MSC’s agents or employees, or losses, damages, injuries or death caused by MSC’s negligence and arising out of the consumption or use of the products and services sold or provided pursuant to the Solicitation; provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall require MSC to defend or indemnify the Principal for losses, damages, injuries or death arising out of the negligence of the Principal, its agents or employees.
ii. MSC’s obligation to hold the Principal harmless pursuant to the Agreement shall be dependent upon the Principal promptly notifying MSC in writing of any such claims or lawsuits against either MSC or the Principal, but in no event not no later than 30 days after the date the Principal first received notice of such claim or lawsuit, and, forwarded to MSC the summons, complaint and all other documents which relate to said claim or lawsuit no later than 30 days after the date the Principal was served with such documents. Failure of the Principal to notify MSC of any such claim or lawsuit within said 30 day period shall relieve MSC of any and all responsibility and liability under the Agreement to indemnify and hold the Principal harmless.

B. By the Principal.

i. To the extent permitted by state or local law, the Principal shall indemnify MSC against any loss, damage, injury or death caused by the Principal’s negligent acts or omissions or the negligent acts or omissions of the Principal’s agents or employees, or losses, damages, injuries or death caused by the Principal’s negligence and arising out of (a) the provision or maintenance or repair of the Premises or the Utilities; (b) the Principal’s actual breach of this Agreement; or (c) negligent, acts or omissions of or by the Principal; provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall require the Principal to defend or indemnify MSC for losses, damages, injuries or death arising out of the negligence of MSC, its agents or employees.

ii. The Principal’s obligation to hold the MSC harmless pursuant to the Agreement shall be dependent upon MSC promptly notifying Principal in writing of any such claims or lawsuits against either the Principal or MSC, but in no event not no later than 30 days after the date the MSC first received notice of such claim or lawsuit, and, forwarded to the Principal the summons, complaint and all other documents which relate to said claim or lawsuit no later than 30 days after the date the MSC was served with such documents. Failure of MSC to notify the Principal of any such claim or lawsuit within said 30 day period shall relieve the Principal of any and all responsibility and liability under the Agreement to indemnify and hold MSC harmless.

C. Neither Party shall be liable to the other Party whether by reason of breach of contract, negligence or otherwise for any loss of profit, loss of business, liability to third Parties or for any indirect or consequential losses, even if the Party is informed of such potential losses in advance.
10. **Independent Contractor Status.** It is mutually understood and agreed that MSC is engaged as an independent contractor and neither MSC nor the Principal are authorized to oblige the other Party or act in the name of the other Party other than as stated in this agreement and it is the intent of the Parties that (i) an independent contractor relationship be and is hereby established under the terms and conditions of the agreement, (ii) the employees of MSC are not nor shall they be deemed to be employees of the Principal, and (iii) the employees of the Principal are not nor shall they be deemed to be employees of MSC. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it is mutually understood and agreed that the establishment and/or management of lobby and booking kiosks and inmate commissary accounts, and the receipt of cash deposits thereto, is a service provided by MSC on behalf of the county for the purpose of providing materials and supplies to state or county inmates pursuant to the Legal Authority as applicable to the Principal provided in Section 13 below.

11. **Notices; Invoices.** Any notice, invoice, or other communication under this Agreement required hereunder shall be delivered in writing and shall be deemed to have been received: (a) when delivered by hand (with written confirmation of receipt); (b) when received by the addressee if sent by a nationally recognized overnight courier (receipt requested); (c) on the date sent by facsimile or e-mail of a PDF document (with confirmation of transmission) if sent during normal business hours of the recipient, or on the next Business Day if sent after normal business hours of the recipient; or (d) on the third day after the date mailed, by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid. Such communications must be sent to the following addresses:

To MSC:  
McDaniel Supply Company  
1275 East Cherry Street  
Jesup, Georgia 31546

To the Principal:  
Effingham Board of Commissioners  
601 North Laurel Street  
Springfield, Georgia 31329

12. **Governing Law.** The laws of the State of Georgia (without giving effect to its conflicts of law principles) govern all matters, including tort claims, arising out of or relating to this Agreement, including, without limitation, its validity, interpretation, construction, performance, and enforcement. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, any disputes concerning any question of fact or law arising under this Agreement or any litigation or arbitration arising out of this Agreement, shall be tried in Effingham County, unless the Parties agree otherwise, or are otherwise required by law.
13. **Legal Authority.** The following legal authorities apply to this Agreement, as applicable to the Principal:

   A. Georgia Code § 42-5-6, as amended from time to time;

14. **Breach of Contract: Remedies.** Upon breach of this Agreement by either Party, both Parties shall have all remedies available to them in equity and/or at law.

15. **Assignment.** This Agreement or any interest herein shall not be assigned, transferred, or otherwise encumbered, under any circumstances, by the Parties, without the prior consent of the other Party. However, the Agreement shall run with the Principal and its successors.

16. **Modification of the Agreement.** Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this Agreement, the Parties may agree to amend this Agreement. No alteration or variation of the terms of this Agreement shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by the Parties hereto. No oral understanding or agreement not incorporated herein shall be binding on any of the Parties hereto.

17. **Waiver.** Failure by either Party to enforce at any time or for any period of time the provisions of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver of such provisions, and shall in no way affect such Party’s right to later enforce such provisions.

18. **Force Majeure.** If the performance of any obligation under this Agreement is prevented, restricted or interfered with by reason of war, revolution, civil commotion, act of terrorism, blockade, embargo, strike, law, order, proclamation, regulation, ordinance, demand, requirement, fire, flood, storm or other natural or man-made disaster or occurrence which is beyond the reasonable control of the affected Party, the affected Party will, upon giving reasonable notice to the other Party, be excused from performance under this Agreement for the duration of the force majeure condition; provided, however, that the affected Party will use commercially reasonable efforts to avoid or remove the cause of nonperformance and resume full performance under this Agreement.

19. **Severability.** Any provision of this Agreement that is prohibited or unenforceable in any jurisdiction will, as to such jurisdiction, be ineffective to the extent of such prohibition or unenforceability without invalidating the remaining provisions hereof, and any such prohibition or unenforceability in any jurisdiction will not invalidate or render unenforceable such provision in any other jurisdiction. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, the Parties hereby waive any provision of law which renders any provisions hereof prohibited or unenforceable in any respect. If it is ever held that any restriction hereunder is too broad to permit enforcement of such restriction to its fullest extent, such restriction will be enforced to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law.
20. **Headings; Counterparts.** The section headings contained in this Agreement are solely for the purpose of reference, are not part of the Agreement of the Parties, and will not in any way affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which will be an original, but all of which together will constitute one instrument. This Agreement may also be executed with signatures sent via facsimile or email (in PDF format only), each of which will be deemed an original.

21. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement, together with its Recitals and Exhibits, which are incorporated herein by reference, is the entire agreement between the Parties and supersedes all prior discussions, oral or written agreements, understandings and representations, whether verbal or written, with regard to its subject matter. The Parties acknowledge that they have not relied upon any statement, representation, prior or contemporaneous written or oral promises, agreements or warranties, except such as are expressed herein.

{Signatures appear on following page}
EXHIBIT A

The Solicitation will appear here:
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties by their duly authorized representatives have entered into this Agreement effective as of the Effective Date hereof.

PRINCIPAL: EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Signature

By: Wendall A. Kessler
Printed Name

Its: Chairman
Title

Notary Public:

Signature

By: Jerry D. McDaniel
Printed Name

Its: President/CEO
Title

Notary Public:

Signed this 17th day of May, 2016

Signed this 20th day of May, 2015
Reconsideration – McIntosh Variance
1157 Harry Lindsey Road – Map# 236 Parcel# 5D

There was discussion among the Board of Commissioners at the April 21, 2020 meeting regarding placing a twelve (12) month period on the variance request. The item was approved (motion to approve alternative 1, by Commissioner Deloach and seconded by Commissioner Floyd) based on the staff report stipulations noted as Alternative 1, which read as follows:

1. The caper shall be allowed for six (6) months starting December 16, 2019.
2. The approval is contingent upon submittal of an application for building permit to construct a home.

This item has been placed back on the agenda for correction of the approval stipulations.
EFFINGHAM COUNTY
APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE OR CONDITIONAL USE

DATE 10-15-19

APPLICANT NAME Richard & Debbie McIntosh

MAILING ADDRESS 1157 Harry Lindsey Rd., Guyton, GA

PROPERTY OWNER Richard & Debbie McIntosh

PROPERTY LOCATION 1157 Harry Lindsey Rd., Guyton, GA

PHONE # 770-905-9774

EMAIL ADDRESS mcdive54@gmail.com

MAP # 236 PARCEL # 5D (236-5)

ZONING AR-1 ACREAGE 15.36

NAME OF DEVELOPMENT

SECTION NUMBER(S) OF THE ORDINANCE FROM WHICH A VARIANCE/CONDITIONAL USE IS REQUESTED

Describe the requested variance or conditional use

Building Home
EXPLAIN WHY THE VARIANCE OR CONDITIONAL USE IS BEING REQUESTED

Continue to build home on property

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE SUBMITTED AT TIME OF APPLICATION:

☑ A COPY OF THE SITE PLAN THAT CLEARLY ILLUSTRATES THE REQUESTED VARIANCE OR CONDITIONAL USE IN RELATION TO THE AFFECTED SITE AND TO SURROUNDING PARCELS AND USES. A REPRODUCABLE COPY OF THIS PLAN, NO LARGER THAN 11” x 17”, MUST BE SUBMITTED.

☐ OWNERSHIP CERTIFICATE

☐ FILING FEE - $200.00

☐ IF DESIRED, ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE THAT EXPLAINS HOW AND WHY THE REQUESTED VARIANCE OR CONDITIONAL USE MEETS THE CRITERIA OF SECTION 7.1.8 & 7.1.6 OF THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE.

SIGN: ___________________________ DATE: 10-15-19

***Please include a copy of the plat identifying existing structures and imply future structures***
ATTACHMENT B

EFFINGHAM COUNTY OWNERSHIP CERTIFICATION

I, (we) the undersigned, do hereby certify that I (we) the property affected by the proposed Amendment to the Effingham County Zoning Ordinance by virtue of a deed date 10-15-19, on file in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Effingham County, in Deed Book _______________ page ______________.

Owner’s signature ____________________________

Owner’s signature ____________________________

Owner’s signature ____________________________
Richard & Deborah McIntosh  
1157 Harry Lindsey Road  
Guyton, Georgia 31312  
770-905-9794  
770-905-9415

To Whom it may concern:

We would like to extend our期权 for our camper to be on our property an additional twelve (12) months.

We have been greatly delayed with our plans to build on our property due to sub contractor delays and bad, wet weather delays.

As a result of these delays our camper was not on our property until March, 2019 and we were unable to move into our camper to start work on the property until June of this year.

Deborah McIntosh  
10/09/19
Reconsideration – McIntosh Variance
1157 Harry Lindsey Road – Map# 236 Parcel# 5D

There was discussion among the Board of Commissioners at the April 21, 2020 meeting regarding placing a twelve (12) month period on the variance request. The item was approved (motion to approve alternative 1, by Commissioner Deloach and seconded by Commissioner Floyd) based on the staff report stipulations noted as Alternative 1, which read as follows:

1. The caper shall be allowed for six (6) months starting December 16, 2019.
2. The approval is contingent upon submittal of an application for building permit to construct a home.

This item has been placed back on the agenda for correction of the approval stipulations.
AN AMENDMENT TO THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, MAP AND PARCEL NO.
236-5D
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, MAP AND PARCEL NO.
236-5D
AND TO REPEAL ALL OTHER ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWTH.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Effingham County Board of Commissioners in regular meeting assembled and pursuant to lawful authority thereof:

WHEREAS, RICHARD & DEBBIE MCINTOSH, has filed an application for a variance to allow a camper as a temporary residence during the construction of a home on the property; map and parcel number 236-5D, located in the 3rd commissioner district; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on February 4, 2020 and notice of said hearing having been published in the Effingham County Herald on 1/15/2020; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held before the Effingham County Planning Board, notice of said hearing having been published in the Effingham County Herald on 12/16/2019; and

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED THAT a variance to allow a camper as a temporary residence during the construction of the home on the property; map and parcel number 236-5D, located in the 3rd commissioner district is approved by the requirements of Article IX – Section 9, with the following stipulations:

1. Upon the issuance of the certificate of occupancy for the house construction, the camper shall be vacated and disconnected from the well and septic.
2. Permit the variance for no longer than twelve (12) months from the date this amendment is executed.

All ordinances or part of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This _____ day of ______________, 20____

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EFFINGHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY: ________________________________
WESLEY M. CORBITT, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

FIRST/SECOND READING: ____________

_________________________
STEPHANIE D. JOHNSON
COUNTY CLERK
Staff Report

Subject: Grant
Author: Christy Carpenter, Finance Director
Department: Finance Department
Meeting Date: 05-05-2020
Item Description: Consideration for non-acceptance of a payment from the CARES Act Stimulus Payment and to remit the full payment back to The Department of Health and Human Services

Summary Recommendation:
Staff is requesting approval for non-acceptance of a payment from the CARES Act and to remit the full payment back to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Executive Summary:
President Trump is providing support to healthcare providers fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The President signed the bipartisan CARES legislation that provides $100 billion in relief funds to hospitals and other healthcare providers on the front lines of the coronavirus response. Recognizing the importance of delivering funds in a fast and transparent manner, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is distributing $30 billion of the relief funds immediately.

During the week of April 6, 2020, ambulance service suppliers began receiving their portion of $30 billion in relief money that was made available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act. Within 30 days of receipt of this payment, CMS is requiring all recipients to agree to Terms and Conditions listed here. You should have also received an email from HHS that outlines the distribution of these funds and the action you must take if you wish to keep them.

The payment must be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, and shall reimburse the recipient only for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are attributable to coronavirus.

EMS recommends that we return the money. Per the HHS Acceptance Terms & Conditions, expenses cannot be claimed on both the CARES Act and FEMA reimbursement. EMS believes we cannot support keeping the payment.

Background:
1. The payment amount is $41,311.82.
2. These are payments to healthcare providers, not loans, and will not need to be repaid.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:
1. Do not accept the CARES Act payment and remit the full payment back to HHS.
2. Accept the CARES Act payment.
3. Provide staff with direction
Recommended Alternative:
Staff recommends Alternative number 1 – Non-acceptance of the CARES Act payment and to remit the full payment back to HHS.

Other Alternatives:
N/A

Department Review: (list departments)
Effingham County Emergency Medical Services

Funding Source:
These are payments to healthcare providers, not loans, and will not need to be repaid.

Attachments:
1. CARES Act stimulus payment article
2. HHS Acceptance Terms & Conditions
You’ve Seen the CARES Act Stimulus Payment, But Did You See the Strings?-

By Christopher Kelly and Dan Pedersen, Attorneys- Page, Wolfberg & Wirth

During the week of April 6, 2020, ambulance service suppliers began receiving their portion of $30 billion in relief money that was made available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act. Within 30 days of receipt of this payment, CMS is requiring all recipients to agree to Terms and Conditions listed here. You should have also received an email from HHS that outlines the distribution of these funds and the action you must take if you wish to keep them. If you do not sign the acceptance, keeping the funds will automatically obligate you to the Terms and Conditions if you do not return the money in 30 days, so make sure you are aware of what you are agreeing to.

If you complete the Terms and Conditions requirement now available here, or if you simply keep the funds, then you ultimately agree that (among other things):

- **You are in good standing with Medicare/Medicaid and provide COVID-19 related care:** If you are currently excluded or had your billing privileges revoked, you should not keep the stimulus money. Likewise, if you are not providing care to COVID-19 patients, or are not providing care at all, it might be hard to justify keeping the funds.

- **Funds must be used for COVID-19:** Consider isolating the stimulus money from other accounts, or at least keeping track of it very carefully. Funds should only be used to “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, and shall reimburse the Recipient only for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are attributable to coronavirus.” This begs for some very careful accounting. A list of examples of what may and may not be included as related expenses/losses is included below.

- **No double dipping is allowed- other funding matters too:** The stimulus funds cannot be used to pay expenses or losses that have been reimbursed from other sources. So, for example, you can not count payroll as an expense for stimulus purposes if that payroll was paid by a CARES Act SBA loan (which will likely be forgiven).

- **Reporting is mandatory for every recipient:** Any person or entity receiving stimulus funds will be required to submit reports to ensure the Terms and Conditions are followed. We do not know what these will look like yet, but the Secretary of HHS will set those parameters later. For now, prepare like this report will look a lot like an accounting audit of how you spent the funds.

- **Additional reporting is required for higher aggregated payments:** If you receive more than $150,000 in total from all the various coronavirus related relief funds (CARES Act, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, or “any other Act primarily making appropriations for the coronavirus response”), then you will be required to file quarterly reports. These reports must include the total amount of funds received, the amount of the funds that were spent, and each item they were spent on. For example, if you got $100,000 in CARES stimulus funds and were...
also approved for $60,000 in other federal COVID related funding, you would have a total above the $150,000 threshold for quarterly reporting. Therefore, keep your receipts! You must keep and, upon request, show documentation that substantiates all of the expenses and losses claimed in your reports.

- **You will waive out-of-network costs to the patient:** For all possible or actual cases of COVID-19, you cannot require the patient to pay out-of-pocket expenses in an amount greater than what they would have otherwise been required to pay if the care had been provided in-network. For a more thorough discussion of what this means, click [HERE](#).

- **There are some unallowable expenses:** One frequent question we are receiving is: how can we spend these funds? While there is no official guidance on this and some of the unallowed expenses are described in the complete terms and condition document, below are some examples of what we think allowable expenses/losses might be, with some specific non-allowed expenses (most of which come from the Terms and Conditions).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can Spend Stimulus Money On:</th>
<th>Can’t Spend Stimulus Money On:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Covering lost revenue related to decreased call volume or not being able to balance bill patients</td>
<td>Routine business expenses otherwise accrued regardless of COVID-19 (Other than paid with valid “lost revenue” recovery)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee overtime costs/hazard pay/bonuses</td>
<td>Excessive salaries (&gt;197,300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 related education, training and legal fees</td>
<td>Lobbying costs (including funds to advocate or promote gun control)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional PPE necessary to treat and respond to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients</td>
<td>Past Medicare Debts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paying third-party billing company costs</td>
<td>Payments to third parties convicted of felonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying for health insurance and workers compensation costs</td>
<td>Covering expenses or losses reimbursed from other sources (i.e., no double dipping!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional equipment costs (ventilators, respirators, oxygen, medications, masks, gloves, wipes, linens, disposable supplies, decontamination supplies, etc.) necessary to treat and respond to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients</td>
<td>Activities promoting legalization of drug or substance; projects that entail capture or procurement of wild chimpanzees; severe forms of human trafficking; maintaining or establishing a computer network for viewing, downloading and exchanging pornography (really, they’re all identified in the terms and conditions)</td>
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You should carefully read the entire Terms and Conditions to see what sections apply to you and begin preparing immediately to comply with the document collection, reporting, and fee-waiving requirements. If you are not willing to accept these strings, then you must return the money.

Christopher Kelly and Dan Pedersen are attorneys with Page, Wolfberg & Wirth LLC, a law firm that focuses on healthcare law as it relates to the EMS and ambulance industry. This article is not intended as legal advice. For more information or for assistance, they can be reached by email at: ckelly@pwwemslaw.com or dpedersen@pwwemslaw.com.
Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

If you receive a payment from funds appropriated in the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund for provider relief (“Relief Fund”) under Division B of Public Law 116-127 and retain that payment for at least 30 days without contacting HHS regarding remittance of those funds, you are deemed to have accepted the following Terms and Conditions. Please also indicate your acceptance below. This is not an exhaustive list and you must comply with any other relevant statutes and regulations, as applicable.

Your commitment to full compliance with all Terms and Conditions is material to the Secretary’s decision to disburse these funds to you. Non-compliance with any Term or Condition is grounds for the Secretary to recoup some or all of the payment made from the Relief Fund.

These Terms and Conditions apply directly to the recipient of payment from the Relief Fund. In general, the requirements that apply to the recipient, also apply to subrecipients and contractors under grants, unless an exception is specified.

Relief Fund Payment Terms and Conditions

- The Payment means the funds received from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (“Relief Fund”). The Recipient means the healthcare provider, whether an individual or an entity, receiving the Payment.

- The Recipient certifies that it billed Medicare in 2019; provides or provided after January 31, 2020 diagnoses, testing, or care for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19; is not currently terminated from participation in Medicare; is not currently excluded from participation in Medicare, Medicaid, and other Federal health care programs; and does not currently have Medicare billing privileges revoked.

- The Recipient certifies that the Payment will only be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, and shall reimburse the Recipient only for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are attributable to coronavirus.

- The Recipient certifies that it will not use the Payment to reimburse expenses or losses that have been reimbursed from other sources or that other sources are obligated to reimburse.

- The Recipient shall submit reports as the Secretary determines are needed to ensure compliance with conditions that are imposed on this Payment, and such reports shall be in such form, with such content, as specified by the Secretary in future program instructions directed to all Recipients.

- Not later than 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter, any Recipient that is an entity receiving more than $150,000 total in funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and
Economics Security Act (P.L. 116-136), the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-123), the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), or any other Act primarily making appropriations for the coronavirus response and related activities, shall submit to the Secretary and the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee a report. This report shall contain: the total amount of funds received from HHS under one of the foregoing enumerated Acts; the amount of funds received that were expended or obligated for each project or activity; a detailed list of all projects or activities for which large covered funds were expended or obligated, including: the name and description of the project or activity, and the estimated number of jobs created or retained by the project or activity, where applicable; and detailed information on any level of sub-contracts or subgrants awarded by the covered recipient or its subcontractors or subgrantees, to include the data elements required to comply with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 allowing aggregate reporting on awards below $50,000 or to individuals, as prescribed by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

- The Recipient shall maintain appropriate records and cost documentation including, as applicable, documentation required by 45 CFR § 75.302 – Financial management and 45 CFR § 75.361 through 75.365 – Record Retention and Access, and other information required by future program instructions to substantiate the reimbursement of costs under this award. The Recipient shall promptly submit copies of such records and cost documentation upon the request of the Secretary, and Recipient agrees to fully cooperate in all audits the Secretary, Inspector General, or Pandemic Response Accountability Committee conducts to ensure compliance with these Terms and Conditions.

- The Secretary has concluded that the COVID-19 public health emergency has caused many healthcare providers to have capacity constraints. As a result, patients that would ordinarily be able to choose to receive all care from in-network healthcare providers may no longer be able to receive such care in-network. Accordingly, for all care for a presumptive or actual case of COVID-19, Recipient certifies that it will not seek to collect from the patient out-of-pocket expenses in an amount greater than what the patient would have otherwise been required to pay if the care had been provided by an in-network Recipient.

The following statutory provisions also apply:

**General Provisions in FY 2020 Consolidated Appropriation**

**SEC. 202. Executive Pay.** None of the funds appropriated in this title shall be used to pay the salary of an individual, through a grant or other extramural mechanism, at a rate in excess of Executive Level II.

**SEC. 210. Funding Prohibition for Gun Control Advocacy.** None of the funds made available in this title may be used, in whole or in part, to advocate or promote gun control.
SEC. 503. Lobbying

(a) No part of any appropriation contained in this Act or transferred pursuant to section 4002 of Public Law 111–148 shall be used, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, for publicity or propaganda purposes, for the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, electronic communication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body, except in presentation to the Congress or any State or local legislature itself, or designed to support or defeat any proposed or pending regulation, administrative action, or order issued by the executive branch of any State or local government, except in presentation to the executive branch of any State or local government itself.

(b) No part of any appropriation contained in this Act or transferred pursuant to section 4002 of Public Law 111–148 shall be used to pay the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment of legislation, appropriations, regulation, administrative action, or Executive order proposed or pending before the Congress or any State government, State legislature or local legislature or legislative body, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships or participation by an agency or officer of a State, local or tribal government in policymaking and administrative processes within the executive branch of that government.

(c) The prohibitions in subsections (a) and (b) shall include any activity to advocate or promote any proposed, pending or future Federal, State or local tax increase, or any proposed, pending, or future requirement or restriction on any legal consumer product, including its sale or marketing, including but not limited to the advocacy or promotion of gun control.

SEC. 506. Prohibits Use of Federal Funds for Abortions.

(a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act, and none of the funds in any trust fund to which funds are appropriated in this Act, shall be expended for any abortion.

(b) None of the funds appropriated in this Act, and none of the funds in any trust fund to which funds are appropriated in this Act, shall be expended for health benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion.

(c) The term “health benefits coverage” means the package of services covered by a managed care provider or organization pursuant to a contract or other arrangement.

SEC. 507 Limitations on Abortion Funding Prohibition
(a) The limitations established in the preceding section shall not apply to an abortion—

(1) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or

(2) in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

(b) Nothing in the preceding section shall be construed as prohibiting the expenditure by a State, locality, entity, or private person of State, local, or private funds (other than a State’s or locality’s contribution of Medicaid matching funds).

(c) Nothing in the preceding section shall be construed as restricting the ability of any managed care provider from offering abortion coverage or the ability of a State or locality to contract separately with such a provider for such coverage with State funds (other than a State’s or locality’s contribution of Medicaid matching funds).

(d)(1) None of the funds made available in this Act may be made available to a Federal agency or program, or to a State or local government, if such agency, program, or government subjects any institutional or individual health care entity to discrimination on the basis that the health care entity does not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions.

(2) In this subsection, the term ‘‘health care entity’’ includes an individual physician or other health care professional, a hospital, a provider-sponsored organization, a health maintenance organization, a health insurance plan, or any other kind of health care facility, organization, or plan.

Prohibits Use of Funds for Embryo Research

SEC. 508. Prohibits Use of Funds for Embryo Research

(a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for—

(1) the creation of a human embryo or embryos for research purposes; or

(2) research in which a human embryo or embryos are destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death greater than that allowed for research on fetuses in utero under 45 CFR 46.204(b) and section 498(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 289g(b)).

(b) For purposes of this section, the term ‘‘human embryo or embryos’’ includes any organism, not protected as a human subject under 45 CFR 46 as of the date of the enactment of this Act,
that is derived by fertilization, parthenogenesis, cloning, or any other means from one or more human gametes or human diploid cells.

SEC. 509. Prohibits Promotion of Legalization of Controlled Substances

(a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any activity that promotes the legalization of any drug or other substance included in schedule I of the schedules of controlled substances established by section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act except for normal and recognized executive-congressional communications.

(b) The limitation in subsection (a) shall not apply when there is significant medical evidence of a therapeutic advantage to the use of such drug or other substance or that federally sponsored clinical trials are being conducted to determine therapeutic advantage.

SEC. 515. (b) Prohibits Asking Candidates for Federal Scientific Advisory Committees Their Political Affiliations; Prohibits Distribution of Intentionally False Information

(b) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to disseminate information that is deliberately false or misleading.

SEC. 520. Pornography.

(a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 521. Prohibits Funding ACORN or Its Affiliates or Subsidiaries. None of the funds made available under this or any other Act, or any prior Appropriations Act, may be provided to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), or any of its affiliates, subsidiaries, allied organizations, or successors.

SEC. 527. Prohibits Federal Funding for Needle Exchange Except in Limited Circumstances. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no funds appropriated in this Act shall be used to purchase sterile needles or syringes for the hypodermic injection of any illegal drug: Provided, That such limitation does not apply to the use of funds for elements of a program other than making such purchases if the relevant State or local health department, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, determines that the State or local jurisdiction, as applicable, is experiencing, or is at risk for, a significant increase in
hepatitis infections or an HIV outbreak due to injection drug use, and such program is operating in accordance with State and local law.

**Government-wide General Provisions**

**SEC. 718. Propaganda.** No part of any appropriation contained in this or any other Act shall be used directly or indirectly, including by private contractor, for publicity or propaganda purposes within the United States not heretofore authorized by the Congress.

**SEC. 732. Privacy Act.** None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of section 552a of title 5, United States Code (popularly known as the Privacy Act), and regulations implementing that section.

**SEC. 742. Confidentiality Agreements.**

(a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be available for a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with an entity that requires employees or contractors of such entity seeking to report fraud, waste, or abuse to sign internal confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting such employees or contactors from lawfully reporting such waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

(b) The limitation in subsection (a) shall not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312, Form 4414, or any other form issued by a Federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.

**SEC. 743. Nondisclosure Agreements**

(a) No funds appropriated in this or any other Act may be used to implement or enforce the agreements in Standard Forms 312 and 4414 of the Government or any other nondisclosure policy, form, or agreement if such policy, form, or agreement does not contain the following provisions: “These provisions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to an Inspector General of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this SEC. 743. (a) No funds appropriated in this or any other Act may be used to implement or enforce the agreements in Standard Forms 312 and 4414 of the Government or any other nondisclosure policy, form, or agreement if such
policy, form, or agreement does not contain the following provisions: “These provisions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to an Inspector General of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this agreement and are controlling.”: Provided, That notwithstanding the preceding provision of this section, a nondisclosure policy form or agreement that is to be executed by a person connected with the conduct of an intelligence or intelligence-related activity, other than an employee or officer of the United States Government, may contain provisions appropriate to the particular activity for which such document is to be used. Such form or agreement shall, at a minimum, require that the person will not disclose any classified information received in the course of such activity unless specifically authorized to do so by the United States Government. Such nondisclosure forms shall also make it clear that they do not bar disclosures to Congress, or to an authorized official of an executive agency or the Department of Justice, that are essential to reporting a substantial violation of law.

(b) A nondisclosure agreement may continue to be implemented and enforced notwithstanding subsection (a) if it complies with the requirements for such agreement that were in effect when the agreement was entered into.

(c) No funds appropriated in this or any other Act may be used to implement or enforce any agreement entered into during fiscal year 2014 which does not contain substantially similar language to that required in subsection (a).

SEC. 744. Unpaid Federal Tax Liability. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 745. Criminal Felony Limitation. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that was
convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction, unless a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

Other Appropriations Provisions

42 U.S.C. 289d note No funds appropriated under this Act or subsequent Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts shall be used by the National Institutes of Health, or any other Federal agency, or recipient of Federal funds on any project that entails the capture or procurement of chimpanzees obtained from the wild. For purposes of this section, the term ‘recipient of Federal funds’ includes private citizens, corporations, or other research institutions located outside of the United States that are recipients of Federal funds.

Other Statutory Provisions

Trafficking in Persons
This award is subject to the requirements of Section 106 (g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104)

a. Provisions applicable to a recipient that is a private entity.
1. You as the recipient, your employees, subrecipients under this award, and subrecipients' employees may not
   i. Engage in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect;
   ii. Procure a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect; or
   iii. Use forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.
2. We as the Federal awarding agency may unilaterally terminate this award, without penalty, if you or a subrecipient that is a private entity –
   i. Is determined to have violated a prohibition in paragraph a.1 of this award term; or
   ii. Has an employee who is determined by the agency official authorized to terminate the award to have violated a prohibition in paragraph a.1 of this award term through conduct that is either-
      A. Associated with performance under this award; or
      B. Imputed to you or the subrecipient using the standards and due process for imputing the conduct of an individual to an organization that are provided in 2 CFR part 180, "OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement)," as implemented by our agency at 2 CFR part 376.

b. Provision applicable to a recipient other than a private entity.
We as the Federal awarding agency may unilaterally terminate this award, without penalty, if a subrecipient that is a private entity-
1. Is determined to have violated an applicable prohibition in paragraph a.1 of this award term; or
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

2. Has an employee who is determined by the agency official authorized to terminate the award to have violated an applicable prohibition in paragraph a.1 of this award term through conduct that is either
   i. Associated with performance under this award; or
   ii. Imputed to the subrecipient using the standards and due process for imputing the conduct of an individual to an organization that are provided in 2 CFR part 180, "OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement)," as implemented by our agency at 2 CFR part 376

c. Provisions applicable to any recipient.
   1. You must inform us immediately of any information you receive from any source alleging a violation of a prohibition in paragraph a.1 of this award term
   2. Our right to terminate unilaterally that is described in paragraph a.2 or b of this section:
      i. Implements section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)), and
      ii. Is in addition to all other remedies for noncompliance that are available to us under this award.
   3. You must include the requirements of paragraph a.1 of this award term in any subaward you make to a private entity.

d. Definitions. For purposes of this award term:
   1. "Employee" means either:
      i. An individual employed by you or a subrecipient who is engaged in the performance of the project or program under this award; or
      ii. Another person engaged in the performance of the project or program under this award and not compensated by you including, but not limited to, a volunteer or individual whose services are contributed by a third party as an in-kind contribution toward cost sharing or matching requirements.
   2. "Forced labor" means labor obtained by any of the following methods: the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
   3. "Private entity":
      i. Means any entity other than a State, local government, Indian tribe, or foreign public entity, as those terms are defined in 2 CFR 175.25.
      ii. Includes:
         A. A nonprofit organization, including any nonprofit institution of higher education, hospital, or tribal organization other than one included in the definition of Indian tribe at 2 CFR 175.25(b).
         B. A for-profit organization.
   4. "Severe forms of trafficking in persons," "commercial sex act," and "coercion" have the meanings given at section 103 of the TVPA, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7102)

Whistleblower Protections
You are hereby given notice that the 48 CFR section 3.908, implementing section 828, entitled “Pilot Program for Enhancement of Contractor Employee Whistleblower protections,” of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 (Pub. L. 112-239, enacted January 2, 2013) applies to this award.

**Human Subjects Protections**
If any activities under this project will involve human subjects in any research activities, you must provide satisfactory assurance of compliance with the participant protection requirement of the HHS/OASH Office of Human Research Protection (OHRP) prior to implementation of those research components. This assurance should be submitted to the OHRP in accordance with the appropriate regulations.

**Fraud, Abuse and Waste:**
The HHS Inspector General accepts tips and complaints from all sources about potential fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in Department of Health and Human Services' programs. Your information will be reviewed promptly by a professional staff member. Due to the high volume of information that they receive, they are unable to reply to submissions. You may reach the OIG through various channels.
Internet: https://forms.oig.hhs.gov/hotlineoperations/index.aspx
Phone: 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477)
Mail: US Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Inspector General
ATTN: OIG HOTLINE OPERATIONS
PO Box 23489
Washington, DC 20026
For additional information visit https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud/index.asp
Staff Report

Subject: FY20 Budget Amendment
Author: Christy Carpenter, Finance Director
Department: Finance
Meeting Date: 05-05-2020
Item Description: Consideration to approve an amendment to FY2019-2020

Summary Recommendation:
Staff is requesting approval of an amendment to the FY2019-2020 budget

Executive Summary:
Each year the Board of Commissioners proposes a tentative budget. During the year, the Board receives requests from agencies and department heads to adjust the budget. Additionally, other factors, such as revenue, may fluctuate thereby allowing the Board to direct that additional expenditures be made. Therefore, a formal budget resolution incorporating these factors is made to adjust the budget accordingly.

Background:
Georgia Law 6-81-3. Requires the establishment of fiscal year; requirement of annual balanced budget; adoption of budget ordinances or resolutions generally; budget amendments; uniform chart of accounts. Section (b)(1) notes that each unit of local government shall adopt and operate under an annual balanced budget for the general fund, each special revenue fund, and each debt service fund in use by the local government. The annual balanced budget shall be adopted by ordinance or resolution and administered in accordance with this article.

The budget amendment attached reflects the following changes:
1. Senior Center Congregate Meals
   • Budget Increase - $6,000 for CRC Mini-Grant award
2. Animal Shelter
   • Budget Increase - $15,000 for Petco grant award

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:
1. Approve the Resolution to amend the budget for 2019-2020
2. Provide Staff with Direction

Recommended Alternative:
Staff recommends Alternative number 1 – Approval of the FY20 Budget Amendment

Other Alternatives: N/A

Department Review: Finance

Funding Source:
Senior Center Meals – increase funded from additional revenues from the CRC grant
Animal Shelter – increase funded from additional revenues from Petco grant

Attachments:
1. 2019-2020 Budget Amendment Resolution
2. CRC mini-grant award
3. Petco grant award
MEMORANDUM

TO: Sally Shuman
   Kelly Ledbetter
   Patrick Zoucks
   Tres Hamilton
   Patti Lyons
   Margaret Moore
   Mary Ann Odum
   Darlene Wymes
   Diana Rogers
   Joseph Cason

FROM: Pamela Rogers, Contracts Administrator

DATE: March 11, 2020

RE: Additional Funding

In continued support of our Nutrition Services and Adult Day Care Programs, the Coastal Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging (CRC AAA) is providing mini grants in the amount of $6,000 for Senior Centers and Adult Day Care sites and $3,000 for Mobile ADC sites. The grant funding is intended for program development and improvements that promote healthy aging and should only be used on materials, training and equipment that enhance your nutrition and day care programs. This would include, but is not limited to, items such as paper goods, craft supplies, exercise equipment, learning aides, tables, chairs, computers and software. The funding should **not** be used for facility or structural modifications.

This letter serves as your official notice of this grant award. Please encumber the funds granted by the CRC AAA by June 30, 2020. **If you are unable to expend the entire amount, we need to know immediately so that the funding can be used elsewhere.** The CRC AAA will need a copy of invoices/receipts for all purchases made under this grant award before reimbursement can be made. We further request a brief summary report detailing the benefits of this additional funding. The summary report and receipts should be submitted to the CRC AAA by July 31, 2020. **Invoices and receipts dated after June 30 will not be reimbursed.**

If you have questions regarding allowable expenses under this grant award, please contact me at 912-437-0842 or by email at progers@crc.ga.gov. The Coastal AAA appreciates the quality services you provide to older adults throughout the Coastal region. We support your efforts and applaud your hard work!

CC: Dionne Lovett, Aging Services Director
    Lena Geiger, Finance Director
    Gale Barr, Aging Fiscal Analyst
    Senior Center & Adult Day Care Managers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Centers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bryan County Commission</td>
<td>Pembroke Senior Center, Richmond Hill Senior Center</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Brunswick</td>
<td>Brunswick MPC Senior Center, Brunswick MPC Adult Day Care Center</td>
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<td>Camden County Commission</td>
<td>Ralph Bunch Senior Center</td>
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<td>McIntosh County Commission</td>
<td>Eulonia Senior Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Savannah</td>
<td>Adult Leisure Services ADC, Eastside Golden Age Center, Mary Flourney Golden Age Center, Moses Jackson Golden Age Center</td>
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<td>Action Pact</td>
<td>Bulloch County Senior Center</td>
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<td>Effingham County Commission</td>
<td>Effingham County Senior Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long County Commission</td>
<td>Long County Senior Center</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Citizens, Inc.</td>
<td>Port Wentworth Senior Center, Thunderbolt Senior Center, Ruth Byck ADC, Liberty County Senior Center, Liberty Mobile ADC</td>
<td>$27,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From: Joanna Randazzo [mailto:Joanna.Randazzo@petcofoundation.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2020 12:31 PM
To: Sharon Simmons
Subject: EXTERNAL:Your application to the Petco Foundation for support is approved

Your application to the Petco Foundation for support is approved

to: "Lorna Shelton" <lshelton@effinghamcounty.org>

Dear Effingham County Animal Shelter,

Congratulations!

The Petco Foundation is thrilled to support your lifesaving efforts by investing $15,000.00 in your organization in response to your application for support (ID number G-1909-09762).

Funds will be distributed 3 - 6 weeks following receipt of this email.

REQUIREMENTS:
By endorsing and depositing the grant award check, or accepting the electronic grant award deposit*, you represent and warrant that your organization will:

- Use all funds for lifesaving purposes.
- Announce and celebrate the investment as outlined by you in the grant application (you will receive further instructions in a separate email).
- Complete all assigned follow up grant reports in a timely manner.
- Complete your organization's Annual Partnership Report (accessible within the Partner Portal) each year to stay eligible for grant awards.

AWARD AMOUNT:

- The Petco Foundation's funding decisions are made through an evaluation process whereby your organization was compared against its peers. Multiple factors are considered including the total number of animals handled, budgets, previous funding history, relationships with Petco stores and other factors so that we may make equitable funding decisions.
- Based on this analysis, your award amount may be greater or less than the amount you suggested. As long as your use of funds stays focused on lifesaving objectives, you do not need to seek specific approval for each expenditure that deviates from the project description provided in the application. We trust that you will utilize these funds in the best manner possible to achieve the greatest return for your organization and community.

MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS:
Municipalities are reminded that, per the certification you agreed to during the application process, funds donated shall not supplant or replace existing government funding, may not be appropriated to the general funds of the municipality, but rather must be utilized and become an additional part of the funding of the animal control sheltering department.

**ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS:**

- Get your funds quicker and never lose a check in the mail - sign up for electronic payments! Login into the [Petco Foundation Partner Portal](#) and you'll find a link to enrollment information and instructions on the left side menu.

Thank you for all you do for animals! We look forward to hearing about the amazing lifesaving work you are able to accomplish with this investment.

Sincerely,

The Petco Foundation Team

*Organizations receiving electronic funds that cannot agree to the grant terms and conditions, as outlined in this and the recognition award letters, must notify the Petco Foundation immediately at petcofoundation@petcofoundation.org and return funds within 30 days of receipt.*

The Petco Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit, tax exempt corporation, tax ID 33-0845930

Joanna Randazzo
Manager, Lifesaving Grants Administration

*Are you signed up for the Petco Foundation’s monthly newsletter? [Sign up now!](#)*

![Petco Foundation logo](#)

654 Richland Hills Drive, San Antonio, TX 78245

**** This is an EXTERNAL email. Please do not click on a link or open ANY attachments unless you are confident it is from a trusted source and you are expecting this email. *****
Staff Report

Subject: Grant
Author: Christy Carpenter, Finance Director
Department: Finance Department
Meeting Date: 05-05-2020

Item Description: Consideration to submit an application for Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant.

Summary Recommendation:
Staff is requesting approval to submit a grant application to Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant.

Executive Summary:
The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) is responsible for the implementation and administration of the SAFER Grants program. The objective of the SAFER grant program is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities to respond to emergencies and assure that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

Background:
1. The grant process is competitive.
2. This is a 3 year cost share grant (25% Year 1 & 2, 65% Year 3).
4. The grant will cover full-time firefighter salaries for 3 years.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:
1. Approve the SAFER grant application submittal.
2. Do not approve SAFER grant application submittal.
3. Provide Staff with Direction.

Recommended Alternative:
Staff recommends Alternative number 1 – Approve SAFER grant application submittal.

Other Alternatives:
N/A

Department Review: (list departments)
Effingham County Fire Rescue

Funding Source:
This is a 3 year cost share grant (25% Year 1 & 2, 65% Year 3). If awarded, the match will budgeted and paid through Department 55 – Fire.

Attachments:
1. SAFER Grant Information
NOTE: If you are going to apply for this funding opportunity and have not obtained a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and/or are not currently registered in the System for Award Management (SAM), please take immediate action to obtain a DUNS Number, if applicable, and then to register immediately in SAM. It may take four weeks or more after you submit your SAM registration before your registration is active in SAM, then an additional 24 hours for Grants.gov to recognize your information. Information on obtaining a DUNS number and registering in SAM is available from Grants.gov at: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html. Detailed information regarding DUNS and SAM is also provided in Section D of this NOFO, subsection, Content and Form of Application Submission.

A. Program Description

Issued By
U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Grant Programs Directorate (GPD)

Assistance Listings (formerly Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number)
97.083

Assistance Listings Title
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Title
Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

NOFO Number
DHS-19-GPD-083-000-99

Authorizing Authority for Program

Appropriation Authority for Program

Program Type
New
Program Overview, Objectives, and Priorities

Overview

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program is one of three grant programs that comprise the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) focus on enhancing the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The SAFER program accomplishes this by providing funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to assist in increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry minimum standards and attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards, and to fulfill traditional missions of fire departments. The SAFER program represents one part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by DHS. Among the five basic homeland security missions noted in the DHS Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, the SAFER Program supports the goal to Strengthen National Preparedness and Resilience. In awarding these grants, the Administrator of FEMA is required to consider:

- The findings and recommendations of the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP);
- The degree to which an award will reduce deaths, injuries, and property damage by reducing the risks associated with fire related and other hazards; and
- The extent of an applicant’s need for a SAFER grant and the need to protect the United States as a whole.

SAFER offers grants to support projects in two areas:

- **Hiring of Firefighters Activity** is to hire new, additional firefighters to improve staffing levels or changing the status of part-time or paid-on-call firefighters to full-time firefighters.

- **Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity** is to assist fire departments with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters who are involved with or trained in the operations of firefighting and emergency response.

The **2018-2022 FEMA Strategic Plan** creates a shared vision for the field of emergency management and sets an ambitious, yet achievable, path forward to unify and further professionalize emergency management across the country. The SAFER Program supports FEMA’s goal of Readying the Nation for Catastrophic Disasters. We invite all of our stakeholders and partners to also adopt these priorities and join us in building a stronger Agency and a more prepared and resilient Nation.
Objectives

The objectives of the SAFER grant program are to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities to respond to emergencies and assure that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. Local fire departments accomplish this by improving staffing and deployment capabilities, so they may more effectively and safely respond to emergencies. With enhanced staffing levels, recipients should experience a reduction in response times and an increase in the number of trained personnel assembled at the incident scene.

Priorities

Each activity has specific priorities and objectives. For additional details, please see Appendix B – Programmatic Information and Priorities, Section IV. Funding Priorities.

Performance Metrics

Performance metrics for the program are as follows:

- Percent of “majority career” SAFER recipients’ structural fire responses that complied with NFPA 1710 structural response standards.
- Percent of “majority volunteer” SAFER recipients’ structural fire responses that complied with NFPA 1720 structural response standards.
- Percent of SAFER hiring recipients who reported and provided evidence that the grant funding increased compliance with NFPA 1710 or 1720 assembly and deployment standards.

B. Federal Award Information

Award amounts, important dates, and extensions

Available funding for the NOFO: $350,000,000

Projected number of Awards: 300

Period of performance: 12-48 Months

- Hiring of Firefighters Activity: The period of performance will be 36 months for all grants awarded under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity.

- Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity: The period of performance will be between 12 and 48 months for all grants awarded under the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity.
Projected period of performance start date(s): July 1, 2020
Projected period of performance end date(s): June 30, 2021-June 30, 2024
Funding instrument: Grant

Extensions: Extensions to the period of performance under the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity generally are not allowable. FEMA will consider extension requests to the period of performance under the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity only in extenuating circumstances (such as those fire departments whose operations were significantly impacted due to presidentially declared disasters). Extensions to the period of performance under the Hiring Activity are not allowable.

C. Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants

Under the FY 2019 SAFER Grant Program, eligible applicants are limited to those entities described below within each activity:

- **Hiring of Firefighters Activity**
  Volunteer, combination, and career fire departments operating in any of the 50 states, as well as fire departments in the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,¹ or any federally recognized Indian tribe or tribal organization are eligible to apply for funding. National, state, local, or federally recognized tribal organizations representing the interests of volunteer firefighters are not eligible to receive a SAFER Grant Award under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity.

- **Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity**
  Volunteer and combination fire departments operating in any of the 50 states, as well as fire departments in the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,² or any federally recognized Indian tribe or tribal organization are eligible applications. Additionally, national, state, local, territorial, or federally recognized tribal organizations representing the interests of volunteer firefighters are eligible to apply for funding under this Activity. Career fire departments are not eligible to receive a SAFER Grant Award under the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity.

¹ The District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are all defined as “States” in the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974. See 15 U.S.C. § 2203(10).
² The District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are all defined as “States” in the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974. See 15 U.S.C. § 2203(10).
Volunteer fire departments and combination fire departments may apply for funding under both activities; however, departments must complete separate applications for each activity. Applicants are limited to one application per activity, per application period. If an applicant submits two applications for the same activity during a single application period, FEMA will disqualify both applications.

Municipalities and fire districts may submit applications on behalf of fire departments lacking the legal status to do so, such as those under the support of the municipality or district. The municipality or fire district may submit only one application under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity per application period for each eligible fire department within the municipality or fire district.

The following entities are **NOT** eligible to apply under this announcement:

- Federal fire departments and fire departments under contract to the Federal Government whose sole responsibility is the suppression of fires on federal installations or lands;
- For-profit fire departments and organizations (e.g., fire departments that do not have specific nonprofit status or that are not municipally based);
- Ambulance services, emergency medical service organizations, rescue squads, auxiliaries, dive teams, and urban search and rescue teams;
- Non-federal airport or port authority fire departments whose sole responsibility is the suppression of fires on the airport grounds or port facilities, unless the airport/port fire department has a formally recognized arrangement with the local jurisdiction to provide fire suppression on a first-due basis outside the confines of the airport or port facilities;
- Fire stations that are part of, controlled by, or under the day-to-day operational direction of a larger fire department or agency, or that are not otherwise independent; and
- State and local agencies, such as forest service, fire marshals, emergency management offices, hospitals, and training offices.

Each activity has its own application and eligibility requirements, as outlined in Appendix B – Programmatic Information and Priorities, Section IV. Funding Priorities.

**Eligibility Criteria**

**Minimum Budget Requirement**

At the time of application, both SAFER Hiring of Firefighters Activity and Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity grant applicants are required to certify their annual budget for fire-related programs and emergency response must not have been reduced below 80 percent of the applicant’s average funding level in the three years prior to the date it applies for the grant. See 15 U.S.C. § 2229a(c)(2).
Applicants experiencing economic hardship may apply for a waiver of this requirement. Please see Appendix C: Award Administration Information.

Other Eligibility Criteria

National Incident Management System (NIMS) Implementation
SAFER Grant Program applicants are not required to be in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to apply for funding under this NOFO or to be awarded a grant under this NOFO. However, any applicant that receives an FY 2019 SAFER Grant Program award must achieve the level of NIMS compliance required by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) over the applicant’s emergency service operations (e.g., a local government), prior to the end of the grant’s period of performance.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE)
There is no MOE requirement for the FY 2019 SAFER grant program.

Cost Share or Match

- **Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity**
  Recipients of SAFER Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity grants are not required to contribute a Cost Share or Match (non-federal funds).

- **Hiring of Firefighters Activity**
  Recipients of SAFER Hiring of Firefighters Activity grants are required to contribute non-federal funds subject to a Position Cost Limit and a Cost Share, as described below.

  All recipients should ensure that they are thoroughly familiar with FEMA’s cost sharing requirements identified below, as well as the appropriate cost principles as identified at 2 C.F.R. § 200.101(b)(1).

  FEMA does not require the recipient to have the cost share at the time of application. However, before FEMA awards a grant, it may contact potential awardees to determine whether the recipient has the funding in hand or if the recipient has a viable plan to obtain the funding necessary to fulfill the cost-sharing requirement.

  **Position Cost Limit (Waiver Available)**
  The amount of federal funding provided to a recipient under the SAFER Hiring of Firefighters Activity for hiring a new firefighter in any fiscal year may not exceed:

  - In the first and second years of the grant, 75 percent of the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter in that department at the time the grant application was submitted; and
  - In the third year of the grant, 35 percent of the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter in that department at the time the grant application was submitted.
“Usual annual costs” includes the base salary (excluding non-FLSA overtime) and the standard benefits package (including the average health cost, dental, vision, FICA, life insurance, retirement/pension, etc.) offered by fire departments to first-year (i.e., entry-level) firefighters. Please refer to Appendix B: Programmatic Information and Priorities regarding eligible and ineligible costs for SAFER Hiring of Firefighter Activity grants.

FEMA’s new grant application portal, FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) may be accessed at https://go.fema.gov. FEMA GO automatically calculates the Position Cost Limit in the Budget section of the application.

**Cost Share (Waiver Available)**

Under the SAFER Hiring of Firefighters Activity, grant recipients are required to contribute a Cost Share toward the actual cost of hiring firefighters under this program. The Federal portion of the costs of hiring firefighters under this grant may not exceed:

- 75 percent of the actual costs incurred in each of the first and second years of the grant; and
- 35 percent of the actual costs incurred in the third year of the grant.

Therefore, the recipient is required to contribute at least the following in non-Federal funds:

- 25 percent of the actual costs incurred in each of the first and second years of the grant; and
- 65 percent of the actual costs incurred in the third year of the grant.

A Cost Share of non-federal cash is the only allowable recipient contribution. Grant recipients can apply to waive this requirement.

**Example: Position Cost Limit and Cost Share**

The Position Cost Limit and Cost Share work together, depending on amount expended, to limit the federal share. For example:

Suppose the applicant submits a SAFER Hiring of Firefighter Activity grant application for one new firefighter. At the time that application is submitted, the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter in that department is $100,000. No matter what the department ends up paying the firefighter (for example, even if the department ends up paying the new hire $110,000), the Position Cost Limit, will cap the federal funding to:

- Year 1 = $75,000
- Year 2 = $75,000
- Year 3 = $35,000.
But, suppose the grant is awarded and the department accrues actual costs that are different from the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter in the department. If the following actual costs during the term of the grant are:

- Year 1 = $80,000
- Year 2 = $95,000
- Year 3 = $110,000.

Then the Cost Share will further limit the federal contribution, unless this requirement is waived. In other words, the federal portion can neither be more than the Position Cost Limit nor be more than the Cost Share, and applicants must assess both restrictions to determine where and whether the caps apply. In this example, the federal portion will be:

- Year 1
  - If the Cost Share requirement is not waived
    - Federal funds will be limited to $60,000, or 75 percent of actual costs incurred ($80,000)
  - If the Cost Share requirement is waived
    - Federal funds will cover no more than $75,000, or 75 percent of the usual cost of a firefighter at the time of application ($100,000)
- Year 2
  - If the Cost Share requirement is not waived
    - Federal funds will be limited to $71,250, or 75 percent of actual costs incurred ($95,000)
  - If the Cost Share requirement is waived
    - Federal funds will cover no more than $75,000, or 75 percent of the usual cost of a firefighter at the time of application ($100,000)
- Year 3
  - If the Cost Share requirement is not waived
    - Federal funds will be limited to $35,000 due to the Position Cost Limit of 35 percent of the usual cost of a firefighter at the time of application ($100,000).
  - If the Cost Share requirement is waived
    - Federal funds will cover no more than $35,000, or 35 percent of the usual cost of a firefighter at the time of application ($100,000).

Economic Hardship Waivers

The Administrator of FEMA may waive or reduce the Cost Share, Position Cost Limit, Minimum Budget, or Supplanting requirements in cases of demonstrated economic hardship. Please see Appendix C: Award Administration Information.
D. Application and Submission Information

Key Dates and Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date posted to Grants.gov:</td>
<td>April 7, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application start date:</td>
<td>April 13, 2020 at 8 a.m. Eastern Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application submission deadline:</td>
<td>May 15, 2020 at 5 p.m. Eastern Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated funding selection date:</td>
<td>June 1, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anticipated award date:</td>
<td>July 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In general, DHS/FEMA will not review applications received after the deadline or consider them for funding. However, DHS/FEMA may extend the application deadline on request for any applicant who can demonstrate good cause exists to justify extending the deadline. Good cause for an extension may include technical problems outside of the applicant’s control that prevent submission of the application by the deadline or other exigent or emergency circumstances. If applicants experience technical issues, they must notify the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program’s (AFGP) Help Desk as soon as possible. The AFGP Help Desk can be reached at 1-866-274-0960 or by sending an e-mail to firegrants@fema.dhs.gov. The AFGP Help Desk is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

Other Key Dates

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obtaining DUNS Number</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtaining a valid EIN</td>
<td>Eight weeks before actual submission deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Updating SAM registration</td>
<td>Four weeks before actual submission deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submitting complete application in FEMA GO</td>
<td>One week before actual submission deadline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Address to Request Application Package

The online FY 2019 SAFER application is available through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program’s FEMA GO (FEMA Grants Outcomes) application portal, at https://go.fema.gov. There are several ways to access application information:

- AFGP website (http://www.fema.gov/firegrants)
- Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov)
- U.S. Fire Administration (http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

Hard copies of the application are not available. However, the Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) and/or Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) number available for this Notice is (800) 462-7585.

FEMA will process applications through FEMA GO. Application tutorials and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) explain the current SAFER grant program, assist
with the online grant application, and highlight lessons learned and changes for FY 2019. For more details, please visit the AFGP website at http://www.fema.gov/firegrants.

**Content and Form of Application Submission**

DHS makes all funding opportunities available on the internet, accessible at http://www.grants.gov. If applicants experience difficulties accessing information or have any questions, please call the Grants.gov Contact Center at (800) 518-4726.

The Grants.gov website will direct applicants to FEMA GO, at https://go.fema.gov, which contains the online SAFER application. The online SAFER application incorporates all required forms.

FEMA GO will allow the applicant’s authorized representative(s) to log in and create their own account. This account is specific to the authorized user and must not be shared with other personnel. The FEMA GO account is separate from any previous accounts created in the eGrants system. Applicants can save, retrieve, update, and revise their work through the end of the application period. The automated system does not allow applicants to submit incomplete applications. The system alerts applicants when required information has not been entered. Prior to final submission, an online application may be saved, retrieved, or edited, up to the application deadline.

**Technological Note:** FEMA GO is compatible with Internet Explorer (version 11 or higher), Firefox (version 73 or higher), or Chrome (version 80 or higher). Users who attempt to use tablet type devices or other browsers may encounter issues with using FEMA GO.

**NO APPLICATION WILL BE RELEASED BACK TO THE APPLICANT AFTER FINAL SUBMISSION**

After an application has been completed and submitted, no changes can be made. There is no appeal process for inaccurate or incomplete information retained by the system due to improper or multiple browser usage by applicants.

**Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)**

**All applicants for this award must:**

1. **Be registered and active in SAM in order to apply;**
2. **Provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and**
3. **Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by DHS FEMA.**

DHS/FEMA may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time DHS/FEMA is ready to make a federal
award, DHS/FEMA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making the federal award to another applicant.

**Electronic Delivery**

DHS is participating in the Grants.gov initiative that provides the grant communities with a single site to find grant funding opportunities. Before applying for a DHS Grant, applicants must have a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number and must be registered and active in SAM.

**DUNS**


**System for Award Management (SAM)**

Applicant registration in SAM is free. All applicants must be registered and active in order to apply online. Step-by-step instructions for registering with SAM can be found here: [http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html). Please remember that SAM registration is only active for one year and must be renewed annually.

Existing SAM.GOV account holders should check their account to make sure it is “ACTIVE.” SAM registration should be completed at the very beginning of the application period and should be renewed annually to avoid being “INACTIVE.”

Please allow plenty of time before the grant application submission deadline to obtain a DUNS number and then to register in SAM. It may be four weeks or more after an applicant submits the SAM registration before the registration is active in SAM, and then may be an additional 24 hours before Grants.gov and FEMA GO to recognize the information.

FEMA may not make an award to an entity until the entity has complied with the requirements to provide a valid DUNS number and maintain an active SAM registration with current information. If the applicant is noncompliant with this requirement at the time FEMA is ready to make a federal award offer, then FEMA may determine the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and may use that determination as a basis for making the federal award to another applicant.

**IMPORTANT:** Applicants must complete the SAM registration process. It is imperative that the information applicants provide is correct and current. Please ensure that your organization’s name, address, DUNS number, and **Employer Identification Number, or EIN**, are up to date in SAM and that the DUNS number used in SAM is the same one used to apply for all other FEMA awards. Payment under any FEMA award is contingent on the recipient’s having a current SAM registration.
Help with SAM
The SAM quick start guide for new recipient registration and SAM video tutorial for new applicants are tools created by the General Services Administration (GSA) to assist those registering with SAM. If applicants have questions or concerns about a SAM registration, please contact the Federal Support Desk at https://www.fsd.gov/fsd-gov/home.do or call toll free (866) 606-8220.

How to Get a Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code
To get a CAGE code, applicants must first register with SAM, which is a requirement for doing business with the Federal Government. Applicants will receive a CAGE code as part of the SAM validation process, and as soon as the registration is active, applicants may view the CAGE code online by logging in to their SAM accounts.

Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission
All applications must be received by Friday, May 15, 2020 at 5:00 PM Eastern Time. FEMA GO automatically records proof of timely submission and the system generates an electronic date/time stamp when FEMA GO successfully receives the application. The individual with the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) role that submitted the application will also receive the official date/time stamp and a FEMA GO tracking number in an email serving as proof of their timely submission on the date and time that FEMA GO received the application. Applications received by FEMA GO after the established due date for applications will not be considered for funding.

Applicants using slow internet, such as dial-up connections, should be aware that transmission can take some time before FEMA GO receives your application. FEMA GO will provide either an error message or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email sent to the AOR that submitted the application. The FEMA GO Support Center reports that some applicants end the transmission because they think that nothing is occurring during the transmission process. Do not do this – it may cause your application to fail to be submitted and consequently not be considered for funding. Please be patient and give the system time to process the application.

Intergovernmental Review
An intergovernmental review may be required. Applicants must contact their State’s Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the State’s process under Executive Order 12372. (See https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/12372.html; https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SPOC-February-2019.pdf)

Funding Restrictions
Applicants may only use the Federal funds made available through this program for the purpose(s) set forth in the award package and this use must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Applicants may not use award funds for matching funds for any other federal grants/cooperative agreements, lobbying, or intervention in federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, applicants may not use federal funds to sue the Federal Government or any other government entity. Failure to adhere to the
award conditions will cause the recipient to be considered in default of the grant agreement and may require the return of all federal funds disbursed under the grant.

Applicants may submit only one application per eligible activity. Any applicant that submits more than one application per activity will have all applications within that activity deemed ineligible.

For more information on restrictions on use of funds, please see Appendix B: Programmatic Information and Priorities.

Construction or Remodeling/Renovation Costs. Construction costs are not eligible under the SAFER grant program. Construction includes major alterations to a building that changes the profile or footprint of the structure. To support eligible awarded activities under the SAFER Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity, remodeling/renovations to an existing facility are limited to minor interior alterations costing less than $10,000 and should be requested under Modification to Facilities. IMPORTANT: Some of these activities may require an Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) review; certain costs associated with an EHP Review are eligible for reimbursement.

Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP)
As a federal agency, DHS/FEMA is required to consider the effects of its actions on the environment and historic properties to ensure that all activities and programs funded by the agency, including grants-funded projects, comply with Federal EHP regulations, laws and Executive Orders as applicable.

Recipients proposing projects that have the potential to impact the environment, including but not limited to modification or renovation of existing buildings, structures, and facilities, must participate in the FEMA EHP Review process. The EHP Review process involves the submission of a screening form that includes a detailed project description that explains the goals and objectives of the proposed project along with supporting documentation so that FEMA may determine whether the proposed project has the potential to impact environmental resources and/or historic properties. In some cases, FEMA must also to consult with other regulatory agencies and the public to complete the review process. The EHP Review process must be completed before funds are released to carry out the proposed project. FEMA will not fund projects that are initiated without the required EHP Review. Applicants will be notified via email if an EHP Review is required and will be provided instructions on how to comply.

Additionally, all recipients are required to comply with FEMA EHP Policy Guidance. This EHP Policy Guidance is located in FEMA Policy (FP) 108-023-1, Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Policy Guidance.

SAFER projects that involve installation of equipment not specifically excluded from a FEMA EHP Review per the GPD Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA); ground-disturbing activities; or modification/renovation of existing buildings or
structures must undergo FEMA EHP Review. No facilities modification project can proceed, with the exception of project planning, prior to formal FEMA approval. Recipients may request funds for activities that do not require EHP Review.

The following activities would not require submission of the FEMA EHP Screening Form:

- Planning and development of policies or processes;
- Management, administrative or personnel actions;
- Classroom-based training; and
- Acquisition of mobile and portable equipment (not involving installation) on or in a building.

**Indirect Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Costs**

Indirect F&A costs are those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective. These costs are not readily assignable to the costs objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. Indirect costs are allowable under the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity, as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.414. With the exception of recipients who have never received a negotiated indirect cost rate as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f), recipients must have an approved indirect cost rate agreement with their cognizant federal agency to charge indirect costs to this award. A copy of the approved rate (a fully executed, agreement negotiated with the applicant’s cognizant federal agency) is required at the time of application and must be provided to FEMA before indirect costs are charged to the award. Applicants must submit copies of the indirect cost rate agreements, along with the SAFER application number, electronically to FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov.

FEMA will evaluate indirect costs as part of the application for federal funds and these costs must be included as a line item in the Request Details section of the application, so FEMA can determine if they are allowable, if they are reasonable, or if they disproportionally impact an application’s cost benefit.

**Management and Administration (M&A) Costs**

M&A expenses are not operational costs but are necessary costs incurred in direct support of the grant or as a consequence of it. As such, these costs can be itemized in financial reports. Applicants should base M&A expenses only on actual expenses or known contractual costs; requests that are simple percentages of the award without supporting justification will not be allowed or considered for reimbursement. Salaries and fringe benefits for personnel directly supporting the grant should not be included in the M&A budget line item.

No more than 3 percent of the federal share of SAFER Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity funds may be expended by the recipient for M&A purposes associated with the SAFER award. M&A costs are not eligible under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity.
Pre-award Costs
Only costs incurred during the period of performance are allowable. However, recipients under the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity may request reimbursement for grant writer fees (see Appendix C: Award Administration Information, Section II. Grant Writer/Preparation Fees; see also Appendix B: Programmatic Information and Priorities, Section V. Eligible and Ineligible Costs).

E. Application Review Information

Each year, FEMA convenes a panel of fire service professionals to develop funding priorities for the SAFER grant program. The panel makes recommendations about funding priorities as well as about developing criteria for awarding grants. The content of this NOFO reflects implementation of this Criteria Development Panel’s (CDP) recommendations with respect to the priorities, direction, and criteria for awards.

The nine major fire service organizations represented on the CDP are:

- Congressional Fire Service Institute
- International Association of Arson Investigators
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- International Society of Fire Service Instructors
- National Association of State Fire Marshals
- National Fire Protection Association
- National Volunteer Fire Council
- North American Fire Training Directors

1. Application Evaluation Criteria

Additionally, prior to making a federal award, DHS/FEMA is required by 31 U.S.C. § 3321 note, 41 U.S.C. § 2313, and 2 C.F.R. § 200.205 to review information available through any OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information. Therefore, application evaluation criteria may include the following risk-based considerations of the applicant:

- Financial stability;
- Quality of management systems and ability to meet management standards;
- History of performance in managing federal award;
- Reports and findings from audits; and
- Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

All investments selected for recommendation will also undergo an additional risk review conducted by the DHS/FEMA Grants Management Specialist to evaluate the risk for noncompliance in carrying out the federal award. Using their subject matter expertise, the questions the DHS/FEMA Grants Management Specialist may assess include, but are not limited to:
• Is the applicant on any exclusion lists as identified in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov)?
• If the applicant has received federal funding in the past, has the applicant performed all audits required by the Single Audit requirements under 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F?
• Has the applicant provided sufficient budget information and justification as required by the NOFO?
• Are the costs proposed by the applicant in the budget information and justification allowable and reasonable based on the criteria set forth in this Manual and the applicable appendix, NOFO, and regulations?
• Is the budget representative of the total cost of performance of the projects?
• If indirect costs are included, has the applicant provided an approved Indirect Cost Rate agreement?
• Is the applicant delinquent on any federal debt?
• Has the applicant had substandard performance in a prior award?
• Is the applicant on the Do Not Pay List?

Based on the outcome of this review, DHS/FEMA may determine that it will not make an award to an applicant that poses a risk of noncompliance. DHS/FEMA may also determine that it will make an award to an at-risk applicant, subject to additional terms and conditions as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.207.

2. Supplemental Financial Integrity Review

Prior to making a federal award where the anticipated federal share of a federal award will be greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, currently $250,000 (see Section 805 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-91, OMB Memorandum M-18-18 at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/M-18-18.pdf; see also FEMA GPD Information Bulletin No. 434, Increases and Changes to the Micro-Purchase and Simplified Acquisition Thresholds):

• DHS/FEMA is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through the System for Award Management (SAM), which is currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) and is also accessible through the SAM website.
• An applicant, at its option, may review information in FAPIIS and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered.
• DHS/FEMA will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, when making a judgment about the applicant’s integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.205.
3. Review and Selection Process

FEMA competitively scores and reviews all applications submitted under this NOFO through the multi-phase process outlined below:

   a. Pre-scoring
      FEMA evaluates all complete and eligible applications relative to the SAFER Grant Program funding priorities (see information on the funding priorities in Appendix B – Programmatic Information and Priorities, Section IV. Funding Priorities). This review is accomplished through pre-scoring and the peer review panel process. General and activity-specific information submitted in the application will determine an applicant’s initial standing relative to SAFER grant funding priorities. Applications most consistent with the SAFER grant funding priorities score higher in the automated pre-score evaluation. The pre-score represents 50 percent of the total application score under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity. The pre-score represents 30 percent of the total application score under the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity. Application Narrative Statements are not reviewed during pre-score.

   b. Peer Review Panel
      A panel of at least three peer reviewers performs the second phase of an application’s evaluation. The panel is composed of fire service representatives recommended by the national organizations from the CDP. These panelists evaluate the application using the Narrative Statement, answers to the general questions, and answers to the activity-specific questions provided in the application. Further, peer reviewers will review the Request Details section of the application including descriptions of each line item requested in the application. The panelists evaluate each application on its own merits against established criteria and not compared to other applications. The peer review panel score represents 50 percent of the total application score. Panelists use the Narrative Evaluation Criteria listed on pages 18-21 of this NOFO to score each Narrative Statement.

4. Narrative Evaluation Criteria

   The Narrative Statements must provide specific details about the activity for which the applicants seek funding, including budget details. Applicants must explain how the proposed activity(ies) relate to the Hiring of Firefighters Activity or the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity. FEMA reviews and compares applications for duplication. Therefore, all elements of the Narrative Statements must be original.

   In applications for the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity, applicants must provide details regarding how volunteers will qualify for the incentives (i.e., who will be eligible for initiatives funded under the grant and discuss any prerequisites). For example, an organization might withhold paying nominal
stipends until members participate in a minimum number of operational activities. This type of information needs to be in the Narrative Statement.

Panelists will evaluate and score each activity based on the following narrative elements within each activity:

i. **Hiring of Firefighters Activity**
   
The Narrative Statement for applications requesting Hiring of Firefighters Activity funding must include all four elements. The panelists will evaluate each element independently. Each element’s relative weight in the determination of the grant award is listed below:

1) **Project Description (30 percent):**
   a) Why does the department need the positions requested in this application?
   b) How will the positions requested in this application be used within the department (e.g., fourth firefighter on engine, open a new station, eliminate browned out stations, reduce overtime)?
   c) What specific services will the requested positions provide to the fire department and community?
   d) Describe how funds awarded through this grant enhance the department’s ability to protect critical infrastructure within the primary response area?

2) **Impact on Daily Operations (30 percent):**
   a) Explain how the community and the current firefighters employed by the department are at risk without the positions requested in this application.
   b) How will that risk be reduced if awarded?

3) **Financial Need (30 percent):**
   a) Provide an income versus expenses breakdown of the current annual budget.
   b) Describe the department’s budget shortfalls and inability to address financial needs without federal assistance.
   c) What other actions has the department taken to obtain funding elsewhere (e.g. state assistance programs, other grant programs)?
   d) Discuss how the critical functions of the department are affected without this funding.

4) **Cost Benefit (10 percent):**
   Describe the benefits (e.g., quantifying the anticipated savings and/or efficiencies) the department and community will realize if awarded the positions requested in this application.

ii. **Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity (Fire Departments)**
   
The Narrative Statement for applications requesting this funding must include all four elements. The panelists will evaluate each element independently. Each
element’s relative weight in the determination of the grant award is listed below. The peer review evaluation score represents 70 percent of the total application score.

1) **Project Description (30 percent):**
   a) Describe the problems and issues the department is experiencing in recruiting new volunteer firefighters.
   b) What are the problems and issues the department is experiencing in retaining current members?
   c) Describe the implementation plan, including the goals, objectives, methods, specific steps, and timelines to directly address the identified problems or issues.
   d) Describe the current marketing plan already in place or the marketing program to be put in place with grant funds.
   e) Describe how the program will be evaluated for its impact on identified recruitment and retention problems and issues. How will the overall effectiveness of the grant be measured?
   f) Describe the specific services the new volunteer firefighters and/or retention of current volunteer firefighters will provide for the fire department(s) and community.
   g) If the grant request will have a regional impact, discuss how the regional partners will benefit and which activities they will benefit from.

2) **Impact on Daily Operations (30 percent):**
   a) Describe how the community and current volunteer firefighters in the department are at risk without the items or activities requested in this application.
   b) How will the risk be reduced if awarded?
   c) Explain the impact the recruitment of new volunteer firefighters and/or the retention of current volunteer firefighters will have on the department’s NFPA compliance.

3) **Financial Need (30 percent):**
   a) Provide an income versus expenses breakdown of the department’s current annual budget.
   b) Describe the department’s budget shortfalls and its inability to address financial needs without federal assistance.
   c) What other actions has the department taken to obtain funding elsewhere (e.g., state assistance programs, other grant programs)? How have similar projects been funded in the past?
   d) Discuss how the critical functions of the department are affected without this funding.
4) **Cost Benefit (10 percent):**
Describe the benefits (e.g., quantifying the anticipated savings and/or efficiencies) the department and community will realize if awarded the items or activities requested in this application.

### iii. Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity (national, state, local, or federally recognized tribal volunteer firefighters interest organizations)

The Narrative Statement for applications requesting this funding must include all four elements. The panelists will evaluate each element independently. Each element’s relative weight in the determination of the grant award is listed below. The peer review evaluation score represents 70 percent of the total application score.

1) **Project Description (30 percent):**
   a) Describe the problems and issues the fire departments that the organization will be reaching with this grant are experiencing in recruiting new volunteer firefighters.
   b) What are the problems and issues the same departments are experiencing in retaining current members?
   c) Describe the organization’s implementation plan, including the goals, objectives, methods, specific steps, and timelines to directly address the problems or issues identified.
   d) Describe the current marketing plan already in place, or the marketing program to be put in place with grant funds.
   e) Describe how the program will be evaluated for its impact on the identified recruitment and retention problems and issues of the fire departments participating in this grant. Describe how the overall effectiveness of the grant will be measured.
   f) Describe the specific services the new volunteer firefighters and/or retention of current volunteer firefighters will provide for the fire departments participating in this application and their respective communities.
   g) Describe the organization’s procurement practices and the timelines outlining the chronological steps to complete the activities requested in this application.

2) **Impact on Daily Operations (30 percent):**
   a) Describe how the fire departments participating in this application and their current volunteer firefighters and communities are at risk without the items or activities requested in this application.
   b) How will that risk be reduced if awarded?
   c) Describe the impact that the recruitment of new volunteer firefighters and/or the retention of current volunteer firefighters will have on the NFPA compliance of the fire departments participating in this application.
3) **Financial Need (30 percent):**
   a) Provide an income versus expenses breakdown of the current annual budget.
   b) Describe the organization’s budget shortfalls and the inability to address the financial needs without federal assistance.
   c) Discuss how the critical functions of the organization are affected without this funding.
   d) What other actions has the organization taken to obtain funding elsewhere (e.g. state assistance programs, other grant programs)? How have similar projects been funded in the past?

4) **Cost Benefit (10 percent):**
   Describe the benefits (e.g., quantifying the anticipated savings and/or efficiencies) the fire departments participating in this application and their communities will realize if awarded the items or activities requested in this application.

5. **Technical Evaluation Process (TEP)**
   FEMA will deem the highest ranked applications from both activities to be in the fundable range. The SAFER Program Office will then perform a Technical Review of applications that are in the fundable range prior to recommending awards. The SAFER Program Office will assess the requests with respect to costs, quantities, feasibility, eligibility, and recipient responsibility prior to recommending any application for an award. Further, the SAFER Program Office will conduct an historical review of award declinations. FY 2018 SAFER Award Recipients who declined an award offer, will be prevented from receiving an FY 2019 SAFER grant.

Once the review process is complete, FEMA will determine each application’s cumulative score and create a final ranking of applications. FEMA will award grants based on this final ranking and the possible recipients’ abilities to meet the statutorily required funding limitations outlined in Appendix B – Programmatic Information and Priorities, Section III. Funding Limitations.

**F. Federal Award Administration Information**

**Notice of Award**
Once FEMA has approved and recorded an award in the system, FEMA GO sends an award package to the grant official authorized by the recipient. FEMA GO will provide the award package and email notification. The authorized grant official should follow the directions in the notification to accept the award documents. The authorized grant official should read the award package carefully for instructions on administering the grant, to determine whether there has been an adjustment to the award, and to become familiar with the terms, conditions and responsibilities of federal award recipients.

The offered award will remain on hold and be available for a maximum of 30 days until the recipient either accepts or declines the award via FEMA GO online or unless FEMA
grants additional time to accept the award. The recipient should follow the directions in the notification to confirm acceptance of the award.

Failure to accept the grant award within 30 days of an offer of award may result in a loss of funds. Recipients may request additional time to accept the award if needed.

**Differences Between Application Request and Award**

During the review process for a SAFER award, FEMA may have modified the application request(s). These modifications will be identified in the award package provided upon the offer of an award.

If the awarded activities, scope of work, or requested dollar amount(s) do not match the application as submitted, the recipient shall only be responsible for completing the activities actually funded by FEMA. The recipient is under no obligation to start, modify, or complete any activities requested by but not funded by the award. The award package will identify any differences under the Approved scope of work section.

**Turndown Notifications**

FEMA GO will provide all applicants who do not receive an FY 2019 SAFER award with a turndown notification.

The notification email will briefly describe why FEMA did not recommend the application for funding. Due to the historical volume of applications and turndowns, detailed debriefs for each applicant are not possible.

**Period of Performance Guidance**

i. **Hiring of Firefighters Activity**
   - The period of performance is 36 months for all grants awarded under this activity.
   - A default 180-day recruitment period begins when FEMA approves an application for an award under this activity.
   - The 36-month period of performance automatically starts after the 180-day recruitment period, regardless of whether the recipient has successfully hired the requested firefighters. The period of performance cannot start later than 180 days after the award date.
   - If a recipient is able to hire SAFER-funded firefighters during the 180-day recruitment period, the period of performance may begin at that time. However, in these instances, recipients must submit an amendment requesting that the period of performance start before the end of the 180-day recruitment period if they wish to begin the period early.
   - Extensions to the period of performance are not permitted.

ii. **Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity**
   - The period of performance is between 12 and 48 months for all grants awarded under this activity.
• A default 90-day recruitment period begins when FEMA approves the application for award. This period allows each recipient time to gather resources, initiate processes, and finalize contracts needed to implement SAFER grant activities before the start of the period of performance in order to maximize the funding’s availability. However, the recipient can only expend funds within the period of performance.

• If a recipient is able to begin its recruitment or retention activities during the 90-day recruitment period, the period of performance may begin at that time. However, in these instances recipients must submit an amendment requesting that the period of performance start before the end of the 90-day recruitment period if they wish to begin the period early.

• The period of performance automatically starts after the 90-day recruitment period ends, regardless of whether the recipient has begun implementing its grant award. The period of performance cannot start later than 90 days after the award date.

FEMA will consider extension requests to the period of performance under the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity only in extenuating circumstances (such as those fire departments whose operations were significantly impacted due to presidentially declared disasters).

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

DHS Standard Administrative Terms and Conditions
All successful applicants for all DHS/FEMA grant and cooperative agreements are required to comply with DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, which are available online at https://www.dhs.gov/publication/fy15-dhs-standard-terms-and-conditions.

The applicable DHS Standard Terms and Conditions will be those in effect at the time DHS/FEMA originally made the award.

Before accepting the award, the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) should carefully read the award package for instructions on administering the grant award and the terms and conditions associated with responsibilities under federal awards. Recipients must accept all conditions in this NOFO as well as any Special Terms and Conditions in the Notice of Award to receive an award under this program. By submitting an application, applicants are deemed to have accepted all of the conditions in this NOFO as well.

Financial and Programmatic Reporting
Recipients are required to submit various financial and programmatic reports as a condition of their award acceptances. FEMA may withhold future awards and funds drawdown if these reports are delinquent.
Federal Financial Reporting Requirements

Federal Financial Reports (SF-425)
Recipients of SAFER grants awarded on or after Oct. 1, 2009, are required to submit semi-annual Federal Financial Reports (FFR) (SF-425) using FEMA GO online. These reports are based on the calendar year, and recipients must begin to submit reports in the period following the beginning of their period of performance. Recipients must submit FFRs throughout the entire period of performance of the grant. Reports are due no later than:

- **July 30** (for period Jan. 1 – June 30)
- **Jan. 30** (for period July 1 – Dec. 31)
- Within 90 days after the end of the Period of Performance (regardless of when the period ends)

The Federal Financial Reporting Form (FFR) and corresponding instructions are available at [https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/post-award-reporting-forms.html#sortby=1](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/post-award-reporting-forms.html#sortby=1).

Financial and Compliance Audit Report
Recipients that expend $750,000 or more from all federal funding sources during the non-federal entity’s fiscal year must submit an organization-wide financial and compliance audit report. The audit must be performed in accordance with the requirements of the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) Government Auditing Standards, located at [http://www.gao.gov/govaud/ybk01.htm](http://www.gao.gov/govaud/ybk01.htm), and the requirements of Subpart F of 2 C.F.R. Part 200, currently in effect at the time the award is made, currently located at [http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=876f827f6fae2c4bce610e9427a6d229&node=sp2.1.200.f&rgn=div6](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=876f827f6fae2c4bce610e9427a6d229&node=sp2.1.200.f&rgn=div6).

Program Performance Reporting Requirements

Quarterly Performance Reports
SAFER grant recipients are responsible for submitting quarterly programmatic performance reports through FEMA GO. The programmatic performance report is due every three months, beginning three months after the start of the grant’s period of performance, until the end of the period of performance.

The Performance Report should include the following:

- A brief narrative of overall project(s) status
- A summary of project expenditures
- A description of any potential issues that may affect project completion
- Other information specific to the Activities awarded.
Close Out Reporting Requirements

Within 90 days after the end of the period of performance, recipients must submit a final FFR (SF-425) and a final performance report (both within the closeout module in FEMA GO) detailing all accomplishments and a qualitative summary of the impact of those accomplishments throughout the period of performance.

After FEMA reviews and approves these reports, FEMA will complete a close-out notice to close out the grant. The notice will indicate the period of performance as closed, list any remaining funds that will be deobligated, and address the requirement for recipients to maintain the grant records for a minimum of three years from the date of the final FFR (SF-425).

The recipient is responsible for returning any funds that have been drawn down but remain unliquidated on recipient financial records.

Information on how to return funds to FEMA is available at http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/31261?id=7080.

Administrative Closeout

Administrative closeout is a unilateral mechanism for FEMA to move forward with closeout of a grant award using available grant award information in lieu of final reports from the recipient. It is a last resort and recipients should always submit their final reports instead of relying on this mechanism. This mechanism can also require FEMA to make cash or cost adjustments and ineligible cost determinations based on the information it has, which may result in identifying a debt owed to FEMA by the recipient.

FEMA may use the administrative closeout process when a recipient is not responsive to FEMA’s reasonable efforts to collect required reports needed to complete the standard closeout process. FEMA will make three written attempts to collect required reports before initiating administrative closeout.

If FEMA administratively closes an award where no final FFR has been submitted, FEMA uses that administrative closeout date in lieu of the final FFR submission date as the start of the three-year record retention period under 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.

In addition, if an award is administratively closed, FEMA may decide to impose remedies for noncompliance per 2 C.F.R. § 200.338, consider this information in reviewing future award applications, or apply special conditions to existing or future awards.

Disclosing Information per 2 C.F.R. § 180.335

This reporting requirement pertains to disclosing information related to government-wide suspension and debarment requirements. Before a recipient enters into a grant award with FEMA, the recipient must notify FEMA if it knows if it or any of the recipient’s principals under the award fall under one or more of the four criteria listed at 2 C.F.R. § 180.335:
• Are presently excluded or disqualified;
• Have been convicted within the preceding three years of any of the offenses listed in 2 C.F.R. § 180.800(a) or had a civil judgment rendered against it or any of the recipient’s principals for one of those offenses within that time period;
• Are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state or local) with commission of any of the offenses listed in 2 C.F.R. § 180.800(a); or
• Have had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated within the preceding three years for cause or default.

At any time after accepting the award, if the recipient learns that it or any of its principals falls under one or more of the criteria listed at 2 C.F.R. § 180.335, the recipient must provide immediate written notice to FEMA in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 180.350.

**Monitoring**
FEMA staff will periodically monitor recipients, both programmatically and financially, to ensure that the project goals, objectives, performance requirements, timelines, milestone completion, budgets and other related program criteria are being met.

FEMA may accomplish this monitoring through either desk-based reviews, onsite monitoring visits, or both. Monitoring will involve the review and analysis of the financial, programmatic, performance, compliance and administrative processes, policies, activities, and other attributes of each federal assistance award, and it will identify areas where the recipient may need technical assistance, corrective actions and/or other support.

The recipient is responsible for monitoring all sub-award activities to ensure compliance with federal and state laws, regulations, and guidance. Responsibilities include the accounting of receipts and expenditures, cash management, maintaining of adequate financial records, reporting and refunding expenditures disallowed by audits, monitoring, or other assessments and reviews.

**G. DHS Awarding Agency Contact Information and Resource Information**

Resources are available to:

• Guide applicants in completing SAFER Grant Applications; and
• Assist grant recipients with the programmatic and financial administration of an award.

**SAFER Help Desk**
The SAFER Help Desk provides technical assistance to applicants for the online completion and submission of applications into FEMA GO, answers questions concerning applicant eligibility and recipient responsibilities, and offers assistance in the programmatic administration of award. The Help Desk can be contacted at (866) 274-
0960 or by email at FireGrants@fema.dhs.gov. Regular hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

FEMA GO System Information
For technical assistance with FEMA GOs, please contact the Enterprise Service Desk at (877) 611-4700. Regular hours of operation are also from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.

H. Additional Information

Extensions to the Grant Period of Performance

Hiring of Firefighters Activity Grants
Extensions to the period of performance are not permitted.

Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity Grants
Extensions to the period of performance are generally not permitted, except in extenuating circumstances (such as those fire departments whose operations were significantly impacted due to presidentially declared disasters). Approval is not guaranteed.

FEMA will only consider extensions to the initial period of performance identified in the award through formal requests via FEMA GO. Requests must contain a specific and compelling justification as to why an extension is required.

All extension requests must contain:

1. Grant Program, Fiscal Year, and award number;
2. Justification for the extension—this must include details of the legal, policy or operational challenges being experienced that prevent the final outlay of awarded funds by the applicable deadline;
3. Current status of the activity/activities;
4. Approved period of performance termination date and new project completion date;
5. Amount of funds drawn down to date;
6. Remaining available funds, both federal and non-federal;
7. Budget outlining how remaining federal and non-federal funds will be expended;
8. Plan for completion, including milestones and timeframes for achieving each milestone and the position/person responsible for implementing the plan for completion; and
9. Certification that the activity/activities will be completed within the extended period of performance without any modification to the original Statement of Work approved by FEMA.
**Requirements for Extension Consideration**

To be eligible for consideration, recipients must submit extension requests via FEMA GO. Recipients may submit requests between 120 and **60 days prior to the end of the award’s period of performance**.

In accordance with FEMA policy, FEMA reviews extensions on a case-by-case basis and typically grants them for no more than a six-month period. FEMA will grant extension requests only due to compelling legal, policy, or operational challenges. The review process can take up to 30 days or longer. Applicants should factor this review period in to the timing of when to submit a request for an extension.
Appendix A: FY 2019 SAFER Program Updates

Appendix A contains detailed information on changes to SAFER between FY 2018 and FY 2019

I. New for FY 2019

- A log book for the purchase and issuance of gift cards is now required. The log book should include name of recipient, date, amount of card, reason for issuance and signature of recipient. Gift cards should be issued to operational firefighters who have completed the minimum firefighter training required by the authority having jurisdiction.
- Job Sharing to fill SAFER-funded positions is no longer eligible.
- Staffing Maintenance Numbers are determined based on budgeted operational positions at the time of application plus the number of SAFER-funded positions.
- FY 2019 Applications will be submitted in FEMA GO.
Appendix B – Programmatic Information and Priorities

Appendix B contains more detailed information on SAFER Program Information and Priorities. Reviewing this information may help applicants make their application(s) more competitive.

I. Application Instructions/Notes

Once the application has been submitted, it cannot be changed. There is no appeal process for inaccurate or incomplete information retained by the system due to improper or multiple browser usage by the applicant.

The Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) that submitted the application will receive an automatic FEMA GO notification email once the system receives the application.

Application Notes
- For the most competitive application, select those local need(s) that most closely align with the highest SAFER Grant Program priority(ies).
- When filling out the online application, applicants are required to provide basic demographic information regarding their department and the community served, but applicants must provide detailed information regarding the items or activities for which they are seeking funding.
- If awarded, FEMA may modify the application request(s) during the award review process; if the awarded activities, Scope of Work, or amount(s) do not match the application as submitted, the grant recipient shall only be responsible for completing the activities actually funded. The grant recipient is under no obligation to start, modify, or complete any activities requested but not funded by this award. Please review the Award Package.

II. Supporting Definitions for this NOFO

Attrition: A gradual reduction in work force without laying off personnel, e.g., when workers resign or retire and are not replaced.


Automatic Aid: Per NFPA 1710, 3.3.2.1 - 2010 edition and NFPA 1720 - 2009 is a plan developed between two or more fire departments for immediate joint response on first alarms.

Benefits: Includes regular compensation paid to employees during periods of authorized absences from the job, e.g., vacation leave, sick leave, military leave. These costs are absorbed by all organization activities in proportion to the relative amount of time or effort actually devoted to each. Employer contributions or expenses for social security, employee insurance, workmen’s compensation, pension plan costs, and the like, whether treated as indirect costs or as direct costs, are also eligible and shall be distributed to
particular awards and other activities in a manner consistent with the pattern of benefits accruing to the individuals or group of employees whose salaries and wages are chargeable. Please also reference 2 C.F.R. § 200.431 Compensation—fringe benefits.

**Career Fire Department:** A fire department that has an all-paid force of firefighting personnel other than paid-on-call firefighters (fire departments that provide reimbursement on a paid-on-call basis are considered to be a combination fire department for the purposes of this program).

**Combination Fire Department:** A fire department that has paid firefighting personnel and volunteer firefighting personnel. At minimum, a combination fire department must have at least one active firefighter who receives financial compensation for services (including paid-on-call) and at least one active firefighter who does not receive financial compensation for services, other than life, health, and workers’ compensation insurance.

**Emergency Medical Services Organization:** A public or private organization that provides direct emergency medical services, including medical transport.

**Fire Department:** An agency or organization that has a formally recognized arrangement with a state, territory, local government, or tribal authority (city, county, parish, fire district, township, town, village or other governing body) to provide fire suppression on a first-due basis to a fixed geographical area. Fire departments may be comprised of members who are volunteer, career or a combination of volunteer and career.

**Firefighter:** An individual having the legal authority and responsibility to engage in fire suppression; employed by a fire department of a municipality, county, fire district or state, engaged in the prevention, control and extinguishing of fires; and/or responding to emergency situations in which life, property or the environment is at risk. This individual must be trained in fire suppression, but may also be trained in emergency medical care, hazardous materials awareness, rescue techniques and any other related duties provided by the fire department.

**Formal Layoff Notice:** Any layoff notice should align with the local rules and regulations that govern civil service employment in the jurisdiction. In order to be reasonable to employees, and to provide employees facing layoff actions a clear understanding of the impending action, any notice of layoff should be in writing and delivered to a specific employee affected by the action. The notice should identify a specific date employment will cease or specific event that would trigger the termination of employment. The notice should be delivered or otherwise presented directly to the affected employee in advance of the layoff action in accordance with the civil service provisions or union agreement in force in the jurisdiction taking action, e.g., 60 days prior to the effective date of the layoff action. The notice should specify whether the action is permanent or temporary, as well as provide the anticipated schedule of layoffs. For the purposes of the SAFER Program, a notice that is not executed within the specified terms will be considered void unless an additional notice is provided within 14 days of the
original action date.

**Initial Full Alarm Assignment:** Personnel, equipment, and resources ordinarily dispatched upon notification of a structural fire.

**Majority Career:** A department is considered majority career if 50 percent or more of the active firefighting membership is salaried staff.

**Majority Volunteer:** A department is considered majority volunteer if more than 50 percent of the active firefighting membership is NOT compensated for service other than a nominal stipend and/or insurance.

**Mutual Aid:** Per NFPA 1710 and NFPA 1720, 3.3.2.2 – 2020 editions, a reciprocal assistance by emergency services under a written plan among AHJs that is part of communication center’s dispatch protocol.

**National, State, Local, or Federally Recognized Tribal Organizations that Represent the Interests of Volunteer Firefighters:** Organizations that support or represent the interests of firefighters in front of legislative bodies at the local, state, tribal and federal level. Such organizations include, but are not limited to, state or local firefighter and/or fire chiefs’ associations, volunteer firefighter relief organizations, and associations. FEMA shall make the final determination as to whether an applicant is an appropriate volunteer firefighter interest group.

**New Recruit:** A new recruit is a firefighter that has joined after the department is notified of the grant award (the date of the award notification email in the FEMA GO mail center).

**Nominal Stipend:** A stipend is nominal if it does not exceed 20 percent of what the fire department would otherwise pay to hire a full-time firefighter to perform the services for which the stipend is provided. Whether a stipend falls above or below the 20 percent threshold may be determined in one of two ways. Departments that maintain paid full-time firefighters on their payrolls may compare the stipend to the salary they pay a full-time firefighter who performs similar services to determine whether the stipend is more or less than 20 percent of that salary. Departments that do not maintain full time firefighters on their payrolls may make the determination based on a comparison to the salary paid to a full-time firefighter in a neighboring jurisdiction, elsewhere in the state or ultimately the nation, and may also utilize data from the United States Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics. A nominal stipend may also include reimbursements to volunteer firefighters for approximate out-of-pocket expenses they incur.

If a stipend paid exceeds 20 percent of the prevailing wage calculated as described above, then the firefighter receiving compensation would not qualify as a volunteer and is considered an employee who may be covered by the FLSA minimum wage and overtime provisions.
Operational Budget: The budget supporting fire-related programs and/or emergency response activities (e.g., salaries, maintenance, equipment, apparatus).

Operational Position: A position with a primary assignment (more than 50 percent of time) on a fire suppression vehicle, regardless of collateral duties, in support of the department's NFPA 1710 or NFPA 1720 compliance.

Paid-on-Call: Firefighters who are paid a stipend for each event to which they respond. Paid-on-call firefighters may be considered paid firefighters or volunteer firefighters, depending on whether the stipend they receive is a nominal stipend. For the purposes of this SAFER Program, a department whose membership is comprised of all volunteer firefighters, including any paid-on-call firefighters who receive only a nominal stipend, will be considered a volunteer fire department. Also, for the purposes of this SAFER Program, a department whose membership is comprised of any paid-on-call firefighters who receive more than a nominal stipend will be considered a combination fire department. Also refer to the definition of a nominal stipend.

Part-Time Firefighter: A firefighter who works less than 40 hours per week. When more than one part-time firefighter shares a position that results in work in excess of 40 hours per week, FEMA considers that shared assignment to be a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) position that must be accounted for in the staffing information provided in the application.

Salary: A fixed payment made by an employer to an employee to compensate for a regular work schedule. Typically, the payment is made on a monthly, biweekly, or weekly basis but often expressed as an annual sum. See also 2 C.F.R. § 200.430 compensation—personal services. The salary structure should be documented in writing by the employer. Only costs for overtime that an employer routinely pays as a part of a firefighter’s regularly scheduled and contracted shift hours to comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) are eligible salary costs under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity.

State: Any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Staffing and Deployment: The minimum staffing requirements to ensure a sufficient number of members are available to operate safely and effectively as defined in NFPA 1710 and 1720.

Supplanting: Replace or take place of funds that would otherwise be available from State or local sources, or the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Volunteer Fire Department: A fire department that has an all-volunteer force of firefighting personnel. For a fire department to have an all-volunteer force, no member may receive financial compensation (in the form of salary or wages) for their services other than life and health insurance, workers’ compensation insurance, and/or a nominal
stipend per call. FEMA considers a department to be majority volunteer if more than 50 percent of its membership is made up of personnel who do not receive financial compensation for services.

III. Funding Limitations

Specific funding parameters are either required by law or are the outcome of recommendations from the Criteria Development Panel (CDP). Each requirement is identified below, followed by the source of the requirement which is noted in parentheses:

- 10 percent of the funding appropriated for FY 2019 SAFER awards is set aside for the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. (15 U.S.C. § 2229a(a)(2)).
  - No more than 33 percent of the total amount allocated for the recruitment and retention of volunteers can be awarded to national, state, local, territorial, or federally recognized tribal organizations that represent the interests of volunteer firefighters. (CDP)
- Ten percent of the funding appropriated for FY 2019 SAFER awards is set aside for grants awarded to all volunteer or majority volunteer departments for hiring of firefighters. (15 U.S.C. § 2229a(a)(1)(H))
  - A majority volunteer fire department is made up of more than 50 percent of personnel who do not receive financial compensation for their services, other than life, health, and worker’s compensation insurance, or a nominal stipend payment, including certain paid-on-call personnel. Although applications are normally awarded based on total score (high to low), in order to meet this 10 percent statutory set aside the SAFER Program Office may be required to fund an application which meets the criteria for the set aside instead of a higher-scoring application that does not meet the set aside criteria. (15 U.S.C. § 2229a(a)(1)(H))
  - If FEMA awards less than 10 percent of the funds available for the hiring of firefighters to volunteer and majority volunteer fire departments, it must transfer the remaining funds to provide grants for the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. (15 U.S.C. § 2229a(a)(1)(H))

IV. Funding Priorities

Program Priorities Description
This section summarizes the program priorities used to determine grant awards. Program priorities are listed as High ☐, Medium ☐, or Low ☐. Within each identified program priority, all proposed activities have an equal value.

There are separate evaluation criteria for the following applications:
- Hiring of Firefighters
- Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters – Fire Departments
- Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters – National, State, Local,
A. Hiring of Firefighters Activity
Grants awarded under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity enable volunteer, combination, and career fire departments to improve staffing levels to attain a more effective level of response and a safer incident scene. FEMA awards grants directly to volunteer, combination and career fire departments to help fire departments increase their cadre of frontline firefighters. Hiring of Firefighter grants provide fire departments with funds to pay new firefighter salaries and benefits (exclusive of overtime). Automated (pre-score) evaluation scores represent 50 percent of the total application score.

1. Meeting the National Standards
FEMA prioritizes bringing non-compliant (NFPA 1710 or 1720) departments into compliance in the most cost-effective manner.

FEMA will ask applicants general questions about the NFPA standard they are attempting to meet as well as their current ability to meet that standard (without the use of overtime). FEMA will also ask applicants to indicate what their ability will be to meet that same standard if awarded grant funds.

Having additional firefighters on staff should improve a local fire department’s ability to comply with the staffing, response, and operational standards that enhance community and firefighter safety.

Applications resulting in the largest percentage increases in compliance with the relevant section of NFPA 1710 (for career departments) or 1720 (for volunteer departments) receive higher pre-scores than applications resulting in smaller percentage increases in compliance.

Note: SAFER grants focus only on the Deployment or Staffing and Deployment sections of these two standards, respectively.

- NFPA 1710 Assembly Requirements: Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Department (Section 5.2.4.1 – Single-Family Dwelling Initial Full Alarm Assignment Capability). This standard applies primarily to all-career fire departments and combination departments if the combination department chooses it.

Departments (Section 4.3 – Staffing and Deployment). This standard applies primarily to all-volunteer fire departments, but it may also apply to combination departments if the combination department does not choose to comply with the NFPA 1710 standard.

- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) – “FREE ACCESS”: As part of its commitment to enhancing public safety and supporting the emergency responder, the NFPA makes its codes and standards available online for free. Please visit http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

The tables below identify the priority levels for current and new compliance with the NFPA 1710/1720 standard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current (Pre-Award) 1710/1720 Compliance Priorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H Never or 0 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H Rarely or 1-19 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M Sometimes or 20-39 percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New (Post-Award) 1710/1720 Compliance Priorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H Always or 100 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H Most of the time or 80-90 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M Very often or 60-79 percent</td>
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</table>

2. **Call Volume and Population Served**
Department call volume and population served are both factors in the initial application evaluation. Departments responding to a higher number of incidents and departments who protect a larger jurisdiction will receive higher consideration than those departments responding to fewer incidents and protecting smaller jurisdictions.

3. **Firefighter Health Measures**
The health and well-being of firefighters is of paramount importance. Therefore, applicants who indicate newly recruited firefighters will undergo an entry-level physical and receive immunizations and who indicate they will provide annual medical exams receive higher consideration than applicants who do not specify that these benefits will be provided. To qualify for this higher consideration, the physicals must be consistent with those required under NFPA 1582 Chapter 6, Medical Evaluations of Candidates 6.1 and Chapter 9, Essential Job Tasks — Specific Evaluation of Medical Conditions in Members.
4. **Training Requirements**  
Applicants will receive higher pre-scores if the personnel funded under the grant will meet the minimum EMS training and certification requirements prescribed by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

B. **Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity – Fire Departments**  
The purpose of these grants is to assist fire departments with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters who are involved with or trained in the operations of firefighting and emergency response. The grants are intended to create a net increase in the number of trained, certified, and competent firefighters capable of safely responding to emergencies within the recipient’s response area. The following identifies the elements that the applications will be evaluated on during the pre-scoring process. Automated (pre-score) evaluation scores represent 30 percent of the total application score.

1. **Meeting Staffing Standards**  
The highest priority is to assist departments experiencing a high rate of turnover and that have staffing levels significantly below the ideal staffing level required to comply with NFPA standards 1710 or 1720 (for details, see section A.1. Meeting the National Standards).

2. **Volunteer Membership**  
Departments or organizations with the highest percentage of volunteers should benefit the most from the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. Therefore, applicants whose membership is comprised of mostly volunteer members, or have a significant number of volunteer firefighters, receive higher consideration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>H</strong> 91-100 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H</strong> 81-91 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H</strong> 71-80 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H</strong> 61-70 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M</strong> 51-60 percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Call Volume**  
Department call volume is a factor in the initial evaluation. Departments responding to a higher number of incidents receive higher consideration.

4. **Firefighter Health Measures**  
Applicants who indicate the newly recruited firefighters will undergo an entry-level physical and receive immunizations and who indicate they will provide
annual medical exams receive higher consideration. To qualify for this higher consideration, the physicals must be consistent with those required under NFPA 1582 Chapter 6, Medical Evaluations of Candidates 6.1 and Chapter 9, Essential Job Tasks — Specific Evaluation of Medical Conditions in Members. Applicants who provide worker’s compensation/Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) benefits to their members receive higher consideration than applicants who do not specify these benefits will be provided.

### Entry-Level Medical Exams

| H | NFPA 1582-compliant physicals | M | Non-NFPA-compliant physicals |

### 5. Firefighter Training and Certification Requirements

| H | Both FF II/EMT | M | FF I |
| H | FF II | L | First Responder |
| M | Both FF I/EMT |

### 6. Recruitment and Retention (R&R) Coordinator/Program Manager

| H | Applicants who currently have a coordinator or program manager in place | L | Applicants who do not have, or are not requesting, a coordinator/program manager |
| M | Applicants who will request grant funding for a coordinator or program manager’s position |

### 7. Regional Requests
Requests for recruitment or retention that will have a direct regional or local benefit beyond the immediate boundaries of the applicant’s first-due area will receive higher consideration. Direct benefit means that other fire departments will
receive a portion of the grant awarded funds or the other departments will receive items purchased with the grant funds.
An eligible applicant, which can include a fire department, may act as a “host applicant” and apply for support of both a regional initiative and its own department’s internal needs on one application. To apply for a regional project, the host fire department must agree, if awarded, to be responsible for all aspects of the grant. This includes, but is not limited to, accountability for the assets and all reporting requirements.

Regional host applicants and participating fire departments must execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or equivalent document, signed by all parties participating in the award, prior to submitting an application under the Regional Program activities. The agreement should specify the individual and mutual responsibilities of the participating partners, the participant’s level of involvement in the project(s), the participating partners’ EIN numbers, and the proposed distribution of all grant-funded assets or contracted services. Successful regional applicants shall provide a copy of the signed MOU at the time of award. Any entity named in the application as benefiting from the award shall be a party to the MOU or equivalent document.

In completing the application, the applicant must include a list of all participating fire departments, including a point of contact and phone number for each department that will directly benefit from the regional project if they receive the grant. The fire departments that will benefit from the recruitment and retention project may also apply for funding under SAFER as long as the departments do not apply for a project that could conflict with or duplicate the host applicant’s project. Applicants must also certify that they will ensure the fire departments participating in this application have not received grants for similar items/activities.

All participants of a Regional application must be compliant with SAFER requirements, including being an eligible entity, and being current with past grants, closeouts, and other reporting requirements. The host shall not distribute grant-funded assets or provide grant-funded contractual services to non-compliant partner organizations.

Note: Only applications submitted under the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity qualify for regional project requests. Regional projects are not eligible under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity.

C. Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity – National, State, Local, Territorial, or Federally Recognized Tribal Volunteer Firefighter Interest Organizations

The purpose of these grants is to assist national, state, local, or federally recognized tribal organizations that represent the interests of volunteer firefighters with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters who are involved with or trained in the operations of firefighting and emergency response. The grants are intended to create an aggregate increase in the number of trained, certified and competent
firefighters capable of safely responding to emergencies on behalf of the fire departments being represented. For this reason, projects that are comprehensive in nature and based on a clear needs assessment, implementation plan, evaluation plan, and have, or will establish, fire service partnerships will receive higher consideration.

In completing the application, the applicant must include data that approximates the characteristics of the entire region and/or all fire departments affected by the grant. If awarded, recipients may be required to provide documentation of each fire department’s consent to participate in the application. Applicants must also certify that they will ensure the fire departments participating in this application have not received grants for similar items/activities. The following identifies the elements that the applications will be evaluated on during the pre-scoring process. Automated (pre-score) evaluation scores represent 30 percent of the total application score.

1. **Meeting Staffing Standards**
   The goal under this SAFER activity is to assist departments experiencing a high rate of turnover that have staffing levels significantly below the ideal staffing level required to comply with NFPA standards 1710 or 1720 (for details, see section A.1. Meeting the National Standards). Organizations that currently have the lowest recruitment and retention rates among the entire region and/or all fire departments benefiting from the grant funds receive higher consideration for funding.

2. **Recruitment and Retention (R&R) Coordinator/Program Manager**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R&amp;R Coordinator</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>H</strong> Applicants who currently have a coordinator or program manager in place</td>
<td><strong>L</strong> Applicants who do not have, or are not requesting, a coordinator or program manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M</strong> Applicants who will request grant funding for a coordinator or program manager’s position</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. **Needs Assessment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs Assessment</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>H</strong> Applicants with projects based on a needs assessment</td>
<td><strong>L</strong> Applicants with projects that are not based on a needs assessment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Fire Service Partnerships

| H | Applicants who have, or will establish, fire service partnerships as part of this project |
| L | Applicants who will not have, or establish, fire service partnerships as part of this project |

V. Eligible and Ineligible Costs

Regardless of the eligibility of any costs requested or the results of the review of the application conducted in accordance with Section E of this NOFO, FEMA reserves the right to approve the activities requested in an application in whole or in part.

- Funds may only be used to hire new, additional firefighters or changing the status of part-time or paid-on-call firefighters to full-time firefighters and shall not be used to supplant funds.
- SAFER grant funds must be used to increase the amount of funds that would, in the absence of federal funds received under this grant, be made available from state or local sources, or in the case of Indian tribal governments, from funds provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Recipients may apply for a waiver of this restriction on supplanting.
- Salary and associated benefits (actual payroll expenses) for the positions funded under the SAFER grant are eligible. Costs are reimbursable if they are included as part of the standard package, available to all operational firefighter positions, and contractually obligated. Refer also to the definitions in Section II of this Appendix.
- Only full-time positions are eligible for funding. A full-time position is one position that is funded for at least 2,080 hours per year, e.g., 40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year.
- Salaries and benefits of firefighters hired under SAFER funding while they are engaged in initial recruit training are eligible.
- Costs for overtime that fire departments routinely pay as a part of the firefighter’s regularly scheduled and contracted shift hours to comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) are eligible.
- SAFER grant funds will only pay for operational positions whose primary assignment (more than 50 percent of time) is on a fire suppression vehicle, regardless of collateral duties.
- Volunteer and mostly volunteer fire departments may also hire individuals to fill officer-level positions (e.g., chief, fire inspector, training officer, safety officer) in addition to their primary operational assignment.
### Hiring of Firefighters Activity – Ineligible Costs

- The salaries and benefits of full-time firefighters who are employees at the time of grant award are ineligible to be funded under this grant.
- The SAFER grant may not be used to fund promotions (e.g., to pay a current member a higher salary by placing him/her in a new SAFER-funded position).
- Pre-application costs, such as grant writer fees, administrative costs (e.g., physicals/medical exams, background checks, etc.), and indirect costs associated with hiring firefighters are ineligible.
- Costs to train and equip firefighters (e.g., Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/Turnout Gear) are ineligible (this does not include the salaries and benefits of firefighters hired under SAFER while they are engaged in training).
- Costs for uniform allowances that are not contractually obligated, included as part of the standard benefits package for all employees, or reimbursed via payroll are ineligible.
- Costs of annual physicals/medical exams are ineligible.
- Overtime costs are ineligible (except as noted in “eligible costs” above).
- Management and Administrative (M&A) costs.

### Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity – Eligible Costs

#### Overview

Applicants must correlate the activities for which funding is requested and the identified recruitment or retention problems or issues to be addressed. FEMA will not fund a budget line item if an applicant does not provide sufficient information detailing how it will enhance recruitment and retention. Allowable costs may be limited to reasonable amounts, as determined by FEMA.

Applicants who propose to focus on retention of volunteers will receive equal consideration as applicants focusing on recruitment of volunteers. A focus on retention may include providing incentives for volunteer firefighter members to continue service in a fire department. SAFER grant funds may only be used for volunteer firefighters who are involved with, or trained in, the operations of firefighting and emergency response.

FEMA recommends that departments consult their Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or the department’s legal counsel to understand the full legal and financial implications involved with implementing or sustaining programs that offer benefits or financial awards to firefighters (e.g., stipends, Length of Service Award Program [LOSAP]).

All grant-related purchases and activities must be incurred, received, and completed within the period of performance. The period of coverage and/or service delivery on all contracts, and agreements may not begin prior to or extend beyond the period of performance of the grant. FEMA may, permit pro-rated costs to be charged to the grant for training courses which begin during the period of performance, but end after the period of performance ends.

All funded activities under Recruitment and Retention must be governed by formally adopted Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Minimally, these SOPs should specify who qualifies for each of the incentives, specific requirements for earning the incentives, and the disposition of the awarded incentives if an individual fails to fulfill the stipulations. FEMA may ask for copies of SOPs prior to, or after being awarded.
**Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity – Eligible Costs**

FEMA will not fund any projects, activities, or line items that are covered under a department’s normal operating budget. Federal funding may not be used to supplant (i.e., replace) an existing activity or program.

Applicants should use the Request Details portion of the grant application to provide detailed information on how each proposed cost was determined or calculated. As much as possible, costs should be based on reliable market research (for example, earnings information is published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Applications for funding in the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity could include projects requiring up to four years to complete (with proper justification).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity – Eligible High Priority Costs</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High Priority</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • Costs to support a staffing needs assessment identifying the operational staff that are required to carry out fire department responsibilities safely and effectively (e.g., supplies for data collection, contractors or personnel to collect and analyze data, software programs, etc.).  
  o NOTE: If a staffing needs assessment is requested and the application is selected for funding, the staffing needs assessment will be the only activity that will be funded. |
| • Costs to support a Recruitment and/or Retention Coordinator, a Program Manager, and/or a Grant Administrator (including reasonable salary, fringe benefits, contract support, supplies, travel, etc.).  
  o NOTE: Computers for these positions are low priority items. |
| • Marketing Program to recruit new volunteer firefighters, such as:  
  o Media advertising (e.g., television, radio, social media)  
  o Print advertising (e.g., newspapers, billboards, signs, banners, brochures, flyers)  
  o LED/electronic sign (NOTE: This is a high priority item only when included as part of a comprehensive marketing program. Only one LED/electronic sign is allowed per applicant and 75 percent of usage must be dedicated to Recruitment and Retention activities – additional restrictions apply; see Section D: Application and Submission Information - Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation [EHP]).  
  o NOTE: If requesting funds to recruit new members, a marketing plan must be in place or the application must show a marketing plan will be implemented either with grant funds (requested as a line item) or that the applicant will implement a marketing plan using existing department resources. New Member Costs - Only one entry-level physical per new recruit. Physicals for existing members are not eligible. All grant-funded physicals (except those for explorers) must meet NFPA 1582 standards (Chapter 6, Medical Evaluations of Candidates 6.1 and Chapter 9, Essential Job Tasks — Specific Evaluation of Medical Conditions in Members). The cost of physicals should be based on local physician or health center prices. Detailed information on implementing NFPA 1582 physicals can be found at https://www.fstaresearch.org/roadmap.  
  o NOTE: Annual physicals are eligible if the applicant is also requesting grant funds for NFPA 1582 entry-level physicals for new recruits. Annual Physicals are only eligible |
### Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity – Eligible High Priority Costs

for the same new recruits; physicals or annual exams for any other member are not eligible.

- **New recruit basic training** that is not covered under a department’s normal operating budget and as required by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to meet minimum firefighter certification (e.g., CPR, First Responder, EMT, Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2).
  - Reimbursement to members for lost wages, mileage/transportation, lodging, and/or per diem while attending required basic training are also eligible. Note that costs for mileage/transportation, lodging, and per diem must comply with the department’s written travel policies and procedures. If policies are not established, costs will only be reimbursed at the Federal Government rate.

- **Leadership/career development training** when used as a retention incentive that is not covered under a department’s normal operating budget.
  - Reimbursement to members for lost wages, mileage/transportation, lodging and/or meals while attending leadership/career development training or conferences are also eligible.
  - **NOTE:** Costs for mileage/transportation, lodging and meals must comply with the department’s written travel policies and procedures. If policies are not established, costs will only be reimbursed at the Federal Government rate.
  - Courses must provide Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or certificates of completion to be eligible.

- **Instructor/train-the-trainer training** that is not covered under a department’s normal operating budget.
  - Reimbursement to members for lost wages, mileage/transportation, lodging, and/or per diem while attending instructor/train-the-trainer training are also eligible.
  - **NOTE:** Costs for mileage/transportation, lodging, and per diem must comply with the department’s written travel policies and procedures. If policies are not established, costs will only be reimbursed at the Federal Government rate.

- **Tuition assistance for higher education** (including books, lab fees and student fees).
  - Coursework or certifications in this category should be more advanced than what departments typically fund for required minimum-staffing requirements.
  - Courses are not limited to firefighter training or education.
  - Computers for individual students are not eligible for funding.
  - Payments for student loans are not eligible for funding.
  - Only tuition payments for classes offered and taken during the period of performance are allowable.

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/Turnout Gear.**
  - PPE may only be funded for new firefighters that are recruited after the date of grant award, that successfully pass an NFPA 1582 compliant physical, and that are certified as “fit for duty.” PPE purchased with SAFER grant funding must be utilized by adequately trained staff.
  - Funds are available to acquire OSHA-required and NFPA-compliant PPE for firefighting personnel. In addition, PPE must meet any national or state standards and increase firefighter safety. Failure to meet these requirements may result in ineligibility for PPE funding. Copies of NFPA standards may be reviewed at [http://www.nfpa.org/](http://www.nfpa.org/).
Only actual costs for PPE are allowed and will be paid on a reimbursable basis. Allowable costs may be limited to reasonable amounts, as determined by FEMA. To receive reimbursement, recipients must provide the following documentation to support the purchase of PPE:
- Invoices/proof of payment for PPE.
- Proof that the firefighter(s) have passed an NFPA 1582 compliant physical and are certified as “fit for duty.”

Eligible PPE Expenditures:
- One set of PPE for structural or wildland firefighting per new recruit.
- SAFER considers a complete set of structural PPE to be comprised of one SCBA mask/face piece, one pair of pants, one coat, one helmet, two hoods, one pair of boots, two pairs of gloves, one pair of suspenders, and one pair of goggles. In those jurisdictions where additional PPE, like Personal Safety/Rescue Bailout Systems are statutorily required, SAFER will consider all statutorily required items to be part of a complete PPE set.
- SAFER considers a complete set of wildland PPE to be comprised of: one pair of pants, one coat, one jumpsuit, one helmet, one pair of boots, one pair of gloves, one pair of suspenders, one pair of goggles, one fire shelter, one web gear, one backpack, and one canteen/hydration system.
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-approved retro-reflective highway apparel.

Nominal stipends for volunteer firefighters who are involved with, or trained in, the operations of firefighting and emergency response (e.g., Pay-per-Call, Points Based System, etc.). Stipends may only be provided for participation in operational (firefighting) activities, such as duty shifts, operational training and/or responding to incidents.
- Food vouchers may be used for nominal stipends if the Narrative supports their use as an effective recruitment and retention tool for the department. However, food vouchers must be issued through formally adopted standard operating procedures. Award recipients must maintain records of all food vouchers including: firefighter name, amount, date received, and signature of the receiving firefighter.
- Gift Cards may not be used for nominal stipends. For information on gift cards, see Low Priority—Awards/incentives below.

Costs to support explorer, cadet, and mentoring programs, such as:
- One set of station duty uniforms (SAFER considers one set of station duty uniform as one pair of pants, one shirt, one hat, and one pair of boots) for newly recruited cadets/explorers.
- Training (Non-Immediate Danger to Life and Health or IDLH).
- One set of structural or wildland PPE, for newly recruited cadets/explorers as defined above, with the following two exceptions: 1) SCBA mask/face pieces are not eligible because PPE for explorers/cadets may not be used in an IDLH atmosphere, and 2) physicals for explorers/cadets are not required to meet NFPA 1582.
- One introductory physical exam per newly recruited explorer/cadet.
### Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity – Eligible Medium Priority Costs

- **Length of Service Award Programs (LOSAP) or Retirement Program:**
  - New LOSAP or Retirement Programs (meaning the department has never had a LOSAP or Retirement Program).
  - Increasing existing LOSAP or Retirement Program coverage to include newly recruited members (FEMA will only fund the increase portion of the program).
  - Note: FEMA will not fund LOSAP or Retirement Programs which were previously funded by a SAFER Grant and were subsequently stopped.

- **Insurance packages (e.g., Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D), workers compensation, disability, health, dental, life).**

- **Exercise equipment and gym memberships limited to no more than $10,000 (total per grant award).**

### Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity – Eligible Low Priority Costs

**Low Priority**

- **New Member Costs - One set of station duty uniforms for each new recruit only (SAFER considers one set of station duty uniform as one pair of pants, one shirt, one hat, and one pair of boots) per the departments uniform policy.**
  - **NOTE:** Class A (i.e., Dress Uniforms) are not an allowable cost under the SAFER Grant Program.

- **Costs for advanced training not currently covered under the department’s operating budget (e.g., extrication training, specialized equipment training, swift water rescue, etc.).** Advanced training requests are only eligible for members who have already met the minimum firefighter certifications required by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and must closely correlate to the applicant’s recruitment and/or retention goals.
  - Reimbursement to members for lost wages, mileage/transportation, lodging, and/or per diem while attending advanced training are also eligible.
  - **NOTE:** Costs for mileage/transportation, lodging, and per diem must comply with the department’s written travel policies and procedures. If policies are not established, costs will only be reimbursed at the Federal Government rate.

- **Single computer or printer for Recruitment and/or Retention Coordinator, Program Manager, and/or Grant Administrator.**

- **Awards/Incentive program for participation in operational (firefighting) activities, such as operational training and/or responding to incidents (e.g., length of service plaques, gift cards for top responders, non-uniform clothing).**
  - Non-uniform clothing (limited to shirts, jackets, or pullovers) as part of an award program only.
  - Gift Cards: A log book for the purchase and issuance of gift cards is required. The log book should include name of recipient, date, amount of card, reason for issuance and signature of recipient. Gift cards should be issued to operational firefighters who have completed the minimum firefighter training required by the authority having jurisdiction.

- **LED/electronic sign when it is not included as part of a comprehensive marketing program.**

- **Fire service association membership fees.**

- **Projector and/or screen to support classroom training.**

- **Payments for housing or rent for volunteers at or near the fire station.**
Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity – Eligible Low Priority Costs

- Other costs associated with new recruits (background checks, aptitude tests, etc.)
- Station Modifications/Remodeling/Renovation of Existing Facilities.
  - Remodeling/renovations to an existing facility are allowable (e.g., converting space into bunkroom). The renovations must be minor interior alterations not to exceed $10,000 (total per grant award).
  - Remodeling/renovations may not change the footprint or profile of the building.
  - Any request for modifications to facilities may require Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) review (see Section D: Application and Submission Information - Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation [EHP]). Recipients are encouraged to have completed as many steps as possible for a successful EHP Review in support of their proposal for funding (the steps include: coordination with their State Historic Preservation Office to identify potential historic preservation issues and to discuss the potential for project effects; compliance with all state and EHP laws and requirements).
  - Written approval must be provided by FEMA prior to the use of any SAFER Funds for remodeling or renovation. If awarded funds for remodeling or renovation, recipients may be required to submit evidence of approved zoning ordinances, architectural plans, any other locally required planning permits and a notice of interest.

Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity – Eligible Non-Prioritized Costs

Non-prioritized Costs

- Management and Administrative (M&A) costs up to three percent of the total awarded amount in accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. Management and Administrative costs must be identifiable and directly related to the implementation and management of the SAFER grant program. Salaries and fringe benefits for personnel directly supporting the grant are not required to be included in the M&A budget line item.
- Indirect costs for national, state, local, or federally recognized tribal volunteer firefighter interest organizations that are expended pursuant to Section D: Application and Submission Information – Indirect Costs. Recipients must have an approved indirect cost rate agreement with their cognizant federal agency.
- Up to $1,500 in grant writer fees for application preparation, but not grant administration. The fee must have been paid within 30 days of the end of the application period and prior to any contact with SAFER Program Office staff or an Offer of Award (see Appendix C: Award Administration Information, Section I. Grant Writer/Preparation Fees).
- Audit costs proportional to the total SAFER grant award. Recipients of multiple federal funding sources can only charge a pro rata share of the audit cost(s) to the SAFER Award.

Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity – Ineligible Costs

- Salary and benefits for firefighters.
- Retroactive payments or recognition for operational services rendered prior to the grant award are ineligible.
- Costs incurred outside of the period of performance except for grant writer fees; see Appendix C: Award Administration Information, Section I. Grant Writer/Preparation Fees.
### Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity – Ineligible Costs

- Fire suppression equipment.
- Vehicles.
- Fire simulators, fire evolution or fire training props (*e.g.*, burn trailers, forcible entry, rescue/smoke maze, flashover simulators).
- Sirens, warning lights for fire department or private vehicles, or other outdoor warning devices.
- Communication equipment including cell phones, pagers, portable radios or Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems.
- Video cameras/recording equipment.
- Retroactive payments or recognition for non-operational activities (including payments, gift cards, recruitment bonuses or stipends for recruiting firefighters).
- Payments for travel to, or participation in leisure or social activities such as theater tickets, entertainment tickets, and trips (*e.g.*, professional sporting events).
- Costs associated with award banquets, such as food, photographers, refreshments, entertainment, or rental facilities. Reimbursement for actual awards (*e.g.*, plaques and trophies) is eligible.
- Costs for food or refreshments that are not part of a conference or training hosted by the grant recipient (food vouchers can be requested as a nominal stipend but must be provided only under formally adopted standard operating procedure (SOP)).
- Costs for training currently covered under the department’s operating budget (*e.g.*, tuition or instructor fees for department-mandated, basic-level training).
- Services at a member’s personal residence (*e.g.*, internet access, plowing of driveways).
- Furniture (except for newly converted bunkrooms), televisions, fixtures, appliances (*e.g.*, refrigerators) and entertainment equipment.
- “Giveaways,” such as pencils, pens, t-shirts, cups, mugs or balloons, for recruitment events.
- Fees for courses and training that are available free of charge on the internet or at state/local training facilities (*e.g.*, NIMS 100, 700, 800).
- Costs for fuel. Costs for travel to training or other eligible activities are reimbursed through mileage rates.
- Annual medical exams for existing members.
- Payments for student loans.
- Mileage reimbursement for responding to incidents or periodic operational training at the fire house (mileage reimbursement is allowed for other types of training as explained under eligible costs).
- Station internet access/user fees and equipment to install internet (such as routers).
- Continued funding of an existing (or previously funded through the SAFER Grant Program) Length of Service Award Programs (LOSAP) or Retirement Program.
- Computers in common areas or individual computers for training/education.
- Copiers/printers.
- Incentives for career firefighters within the recipient’s fire department.
- Additional ineligible costs for Explorer/Cadet/Mentoring Programs:
  - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), including mask/face piece
  - Anything involving the IDLH atmosphere
  - Any activities precluded by the authority having jurisdiction
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity – Ineligible Costs</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Ineligible PPE expenditures:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Three-quarter length rubber boots</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) (not including SCBA masks/face pieces)</td>
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<tr>
<td>o PASS Devices</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Spare cylinders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Bomb disposal suits</td>
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<tr>
<td>o PPE for hazardous materials and other specialized incidents</td>
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<tr>
<td>o More than one set of PPE per newly recruited member (within the period of performance)</td>
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<tr>
<td>o PPE for existing members</td>
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<td>• This list of ineligible costs is not exhaustive.</td>
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Appendix C: Award Administration Information

Appendix C contains detailed information on SAFER Award Administration. Reviewing this information may help grant recipients in the programmatic and financial administration of their award(s).

Help FEMA Prevent Fraud, Waste, and Abuse
If applicants or recipients have information about instances of fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement involving FEMA programs or operations, they should contact the DHS OIG Hotline at (800) 323-8603, by fax at (202) 254-4297, or email DHSOIGHOTLINE@dhs.gov

I. Economic Hardship Waivers of Cost Share, Minimum Budget, and Supplanting Requirements for the SAFER Grant Program

In cases of demonstrated economic hardship, and upon the request of the recipient, the Administrator may waive or reduce a SAFER cost share, position cost limit, minimum budget, or supplanting requirement for certain recipients (15 U.S.C. § 2229a(d)(1)). As required by statute, the Administrator of FEMA established guidelines for determining what constitutes economic hardship. These guidelines are published in Information Bulletin No. 427, Economic Hardship Waivers: AFG Grant Program, FP&S Grant Program, and SAFER Grant Program and available online at https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/158776.

SAFER applicants for FY 2019 must indicate at the time of application for the grant whether they are requesting a waiver and whether they want FEMA to waive the cost share requirement, the position cost limit requirement, the minimum budget requirement, the supplanting requirement, or any combination of these requirements.

SAFER Hiring of Firefighters Activity grant recipients may apply for one, two, three, or all four of the available waivers.

SAFER Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity grant applicants may only apply to waive or reduce the minimum budget requirement.

Applicants must indicate their interest in applying for a hardship waiver within the application via FEMA GO online and must attach the waiver request to their applications.

II. Grant Writer/Preparation Fees (Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity Only)

Applicants under the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity may hire and reimburse a grant writer to assist in the application process.

Fees for grant writers may be included as a pre-award expenditure, but payment of the grant writer fees cannot be contingent on the applicant receiving an award. For grant writer fees to be eligible as a pre-award expenditure, applicants must specifically identify and list the fees in the Request Details section of the application. FEMA will only
consider reimbursements for application preparation, but not administration, up to but not more than $1,500. Pursuant to 2 C.F.R. Part 180, recipients may not use federal grant funds to reimburse any entity, including a grant writer or preparer, if that entity is presently suspended or debarred by the Federal Government from receiving funding under federally funded grants or contracts. Recipients must verify that the contractor is not suspended or debarred from participating in specified federal procurement or non-procurement transactions pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 180.300. FEMA recommends recipients use SAM.gov to conduct this verification.

Additionally, regardless of whether the recipient requests grant writer fees, Federal funds and funds applied toward the award’s cost share cannot be used to pay a grant writer to provide post-award services unless a single contract covering both pre- and post-award services was awarded to the grant writer and procured in compliance with 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317-326.

*By submitting an application, applicants certify that all of the information contained therein is true and an accurate reflection of the organization. Regardless of the applicant’s intent, the submission of information that is false or misleading may result in actions by FEMA that include but are not limited to: not considering the submitted application for award, temporarily withholding funding under the existing award pending investigation, or referring the matter to the Office of the Inspector General.*

Prior to submitting the application, please review all work produced by grant writers or other third parties for accuracy. In addition, the fees must have been paid within 30 days of the end of the application period and prior to any contact with SAFER Program Office staff or an offer of award. The applicant must provide the following documentation upon request:

- A copy of the grant writer’s contract for services
- A copy of the invoice or purchase order
- A copy of the canceled check (front and back) and bank statement

Applicants will be required to provide documentation to support these pre-award expenditures. Failure to provide the requested documentation may result in the grant writer fee being deemed ineligible and the grant reduced accordingly.

**NOTE:** FEMA requires that all applicants identify any individual or organization that assisted with the development, preparation, or review of the application to include drafting or writing the narrative and budget, whether that person, entity, or agent is compensated or not and whether the assistance took place prior to submitting the application.
III. Maintenance and Sustainment for SAFER Programs

The use of FEMA preparedness grant funds, to include the SAFER Program, for the costs of repairs or replacement, as well as maintenance contracts, warranties, and user fees may be allowable.

The intent of eligible Maintenance and Sustainment activities is to provide direct support to the critical capabilities developed using FEMA and other DHS grants and support activities. Routine upkeep and the supplies, expendables, or one-time use items that support routine upkeep (e.g. gasoline, tire replacement, routine oil changes, monthly inspections, or grounds and facility maintenance) are the responsibility of the recipient and may not be funded with SAFER funding.

Generally, when purchasing a maintenance agreement, service contract, or extended warranty for systems or equipment, the period of coverage provided under such a plan may not extend beyond the period of performance of the grant with which the agreement, warranty, or contract is purchased.

However, only if the maintenance contract or extended warranty is purchased incidental to the original purchase of the system or equipment, recipients may procure maintenance or warranty coverage which exceeds the period of performance, as explained in FEMA Policy 205-402-125-1, available at [http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1915-25045-9444/gpd_maintenance_policy.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1915-25045-9444/gpd_maintenance_policy.pdf).

The duration of an extended warranty purchased incidental to the original purchase of the equipment may exceed the period performance as long as the coverage purchased is consistent with that which is typically provided for, or available through, these types of agreements, warranties, or contracts. When purchasing a stand-alone warranty or extending an existing maintenance contract on an already-owned piece of equipment or system, coverage purchased may not exceed the period of performance of the award used to purchase the maintenance agreement or warranty. As with warranties and maintenance agreements, this policy extends to licenses and user fees as well.

Even if purchased incidental to the original purchase of the equipment, the duration of an extended maintenance agreement or warranty must also be reasonable for the type of equipment or system being purchased. For example, if a vendor offers a 10-year extended warranty incidental to the purchase of a piece of equipment, but the useful life of that equipment being purchased is five years, the purchase of a 10-year extended warranty would not be a reasonable cost and may not be charged to the grant.

IV. Taxes, Fees, Levies and Assessments

Taxes, fees, levies, or assessments that the recipient is legally required to pay and is directly related to any eligible SAFER program acquisition activity may be charged to a SAFER award pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.470. These charges shall be identified and enumerated in the application’s Narrative and the Request Details section of the
acquisition activity. Any avoidable and unreasonable costs that result from the action or inaction of a recipient (or recipient’s agent), or that prevent that recipient from enjoying any lawful exemption, waiver, or reduction of any tax, fee, levy, or assessment directly related to any eligible SAFER Program acquisition activity, are not chargeable to any SAFER Award.

**Example:** Government entities and Public Safety Agencies are exempt from some Federal Communications Commission (FCC) fees, but only if the eligible organization submits an exemption or waiver request to the FCC.

Government entities are not required to pay FCC regulatory fees. Non-profit entities (exempt under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code) also may be exempt. The FCC requires that any entity claiming exempt status submit or have on file with the FCC a valid IRS Determination Letter documenting its nonprofit status or certification from a governmental authority attesting to its exempt status. For more information, please visit [http://www.fcc.gov/](http://www.fcc.gov/).

### V. Procurement Integrity

Through audits conducted by DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) and FEMA grant monitoring, findings have shown that some FEMA recipients have not adhered fully to proper procurement requirements when spending grant funds. Anything less than full compliance with federal procurement policies jeopardizes the integrity of the grant as well as the grant program. Noncompliance with the federal procurement rules may result in FEMA imposing specific award conditions as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.207 or pursuing other remedies for noncompliance under 2 C.F.R. § 200.338.

The below highlights the federal procurement requirements for FEMA recipients when procuring goods and services with federal grant funds. DHS/FEMA will include a review of recipients’ procurement practices as part of the normal monitoring activities. **All procurement activity must be conducted in compliance with federal procurement standards at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.326.**

3 Select requirements under these standards are listed below, but recipients must comply with all requirements, even if they are not listed below.

**States:** Under 2 C.F.R. § 200.317, when procuring property and services under a federal award, states must follow the same policies and procedures they use for procurements from their non-federal funds; additionally, states must follow 2 C.F.R. § 200.322

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regarding the procurement of recovered materials and 2 C.F.R. § 200.326 regarding required contract provisions.

**Non-federal entities other than states: All other non-federal entities, such as tribes,** must use their own documented procurement procedures, which reflect applicable state, local, territorial and tribal laws and regulations, provided that the procurements conform to applicable federal law and the standards identified in 2 C.F.R. Part 200. These federal standards include but are not limited to providing for full and open competition consistent with the standards of 2 C.F.R. § 200.319.

**Competition and Conflicts of Interest**
Under 2 C.F.R. § 200.319(a)’s requirements for all non-federal entities other than states, to ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for these procurements. **FEMA considers these situations to be organizational conflicts of interest and interprets this restriction as applying to contractors that help a recipient develop its grant application, project plans, or project budget. This prohibition also applies to the use of former employees to manage the grant or carry out a contract when the former employees worked on these activities while they were employees of the non-federal entity.**

Under this prohibition, unless the non-federal entity solicits for and awards a contract covering both development and execution of specifications (or similar elements as described above), and it procured this contract in compliance with 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.326, federal funds and funds applied to the award’s cost share cannot be used to pay a contractor to carry out the work if that contractor also worked on the development of these specifications. This rule applies to all contracts funded with federal grant funds, including pre-award costs such as grant writer fees as well as post-award costs such as grant management fees. For more information on grant writer and grant management costs, see Appendix C – Award Administration information, Section II. Grant Writer/Preparation Fees.

Additionally, situations considered to be restrictive of competition include but are not limited to:

- Placing unreasonable requirements on firms in order for them to qualify to do business.
- Requiring unnecessary experience and excessive bonding.
- Noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or between affiliated companies.
- Noncompetitive contracts to consultants that are on retainer contracts.
- Organizational conflicts of interest.
- Specifying only a “brand name” product instead of allowing “an equal” product to be offered and describing the performance or other relevant requirements of the procurement.
- Any arbitrary action in the procurement process.
Pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.319(b), non-federal entities other than states must conduct procurements in a manner that prohibits the use of statutorily or administratively imposed state, local, territorial or tribal geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals except in those cases where applicable federal statutes expressly mandate or encourage geographic preference. Nothing in this section preempts state licensing laws. When contracting for architectural and engineering services, geographic location may be a selection criterion provided application of this criterion leaves an appropriate number of qualified firms, given the nature and size of the project, to compete for the contract.

Pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.318(c)(1), non-federal entities other than states are required to maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of their employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such conflicts of interest would arise when the employee, officer or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.

The officers, employees, and agents of the non-federal entity may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. However, non-federal entities may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial, or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied when officers, employees, or agents of the non-federal entity violate these standards.

If the recipient or subrecipient (other than states) has a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization that is not a state, local government, or Indian tribe, the non-federal entity must also maintain written standards of conduct covering organizational conflicts of interest. In this context, organizational conflict of interest means that because of a relationship with a parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, the non-federal entity is unable to be or appears unable to be impartial in conducting a procurement action involving a related organization. The non-federal entity must disclose in writing any potential conflicts of interest to FEMA or to the pass-through entity in accordance with applicable FEMA policy.

**Supply Schedules**
Generally, a non-federal entity may seek to procure goods or services from a federal supply schedule, state supply schedule, or group purchasing agreement. State and local governments may procure goods and services from a General Services Administration (GSA) schedule. Information about GSA programs for state and local governments can be found at [https://www.gsa.gov/resources-for/programs-for-state-and-local-governments](https://www.gsa.gov/resources-for/programs-for-state-and-local-governments). For local governments that purchase off a GSA schedule, this act will satisfy the federal requirements for full and open competition provided that the recipient
local government follows the GSA ordering procedures; however, local governments will still need to follow the other rules under 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.326, such as contract cost and price (§ 200.323) and solicitation of minority, women-owned, or small businesses (§ 200.321).

For non-federal entities other than states, such as tribes, that want to procure goods or services from a state supply schedule, cooperative purchasing program or other similar program, in order for such procurements by to be permissible, the following must be true:

- The procurement of the original contract or purchasing schedule and its use by the recipient complies with state and local laws, regulations and written procurement procedures.
- The state or other entity that originally procured the original contract or purchasing schedule entered into the contract or schedule with the express purpose of making it available to the recipient and other similar types of entities.
- The contract or purchasing schedule specifically allows for such use, and the work to be performed for the non-federal entity falls within the scope of work under the contract as to type, amount and geography.
- The procurement of the original contract or purchasing schedule complied with all of the procurement standards applicable to a non-federal entity other than states under 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.326.
- With respect to the use of a purchasing schedule, the recipient must follow ordering procedures that adhere to state and local laws and regulations and to the minimum requirements of full and open competition under 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

If a non-federal entity other than a state seeks to use such a state supply schedule, cooperative purchasing program, or other similar type of arrangement, FEMA recommends that the recipient first discuss the procurement plans with the FEMA Grant Programs Directorate.

**Documentation**

Non-federal entities are required to maintain and retain the following documentation for federally funded or cost-match purchases:

- Backup documentation, such as bids and quotes.
- Cost/price analyses on file for review by federal personnel, if applicable.
- Specifications
- Solicitations
- Competitive quotes or proposals
- Basis for selection decisions
- Purchase orders
- Contracts
- Invoices
- Cancelled checks
- Other documents required by federal regulations applicable at the time a grant is
awarded to a recipient.

Non-federal entities must keep detailed records of all transactions involving the grant. FEMA may at any time request copies of purchasing documentation along with copies of cancelled checks for verification. See, e.g., 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.318(i), 200.333, 200.336.

Non-federal entities who fail to document fully all purchases will find their expenditures questioned and subsequently disallowed.

Pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.313(a)(2), recipients may not encumber equipment procured with SAFER funding without FEMA or pass-through entity approval.

VI. Payments and Amendments

Payments
SAFER payment/drawdown requests are generated using FEMA GO and are governed by applicable federal regulations, including 2 C.F.R. § 200.305.

Recipients should not expend funds or request drawdowns until all special conditions listed on the grant award document are met and FEMA has approved the request for payment in FEMA GO.

Recipients should draw down funds based upon immediate disbursement requirements; however, FEMA strongly encourages recipients to draw down funds as close to disbursement or expenditure as possible to avoid accruing interest.

Advances
Recipients shall be paid in advance, provided they maintain or demonstrate the willingness and ability to maintain procedures to minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of the funds and their disbursement by the recipient, and financial management systems that meet the standards for fund control and accountability as established in 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

Although advance drawdown requests are permissible, recipients remain subject to applicable federal law in effect at the time the grant is awarded. Governing interest requirements include the Uniform Administrative Requirements Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and the Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA) and its implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 205. Interest under CMIA will accrue from the time federal funds are credited to a recipient’s account until the time the recipient pays out the funds for program purposes.

Recipients must follow applicable federal regulations governing interest earned on payment advances in effect at the time a grant is awarded to the recipient, including 2 C.F.R. § 200.305.
Reimbursement
Reimbursement of the recipient is the preferred method of payment under the grant award when the 2 C.F.R. § 200.305(b)(1)-(2) requirements to be paid in advance cannot be met. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.305(b)(3). In accordance with U.S. Department of Treasury regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 205, if applicable, recipients must maintain procedures to minimize the time elapsing between the transfer and the disbursement of these funds.

Program Income, Rebates, and Other Revenue
Recipients must disburse program income, rebates, refunds, contract settlements, audit recoveries and interest earned on such funds before requesting additional cash payments, in accordance with applicable federal regulations at 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

The reduction of federal financial participation via rebates/refunds may generate excess funds for the recipient, if the recipient had already obligated its cost-share match based upon the original award figures.

If the recipient had already obligated its original cost share prior to the rebate, then the recipient may have minimum excess funds equal to the difference between the original cost share and the rebate adjusted cost share.

Payment Requests During Closeout
For the 90 days following the end of the period of performance, during an award’s closeout reconciliation, recipients may only submit reimbursement payment requests.

Reimbursement payment requests can only be for obligations that were obligated and received within the award’s active period of performance. Reimbursement requests must contain clear and specific information certifying that the liquidation of federal funds will be reimbursement for an obligation properly incurred and received during the active period of performance. FEMA also may request documentation supporting the reimbursement for review.

Amendments
FEMA may approve SAFER award amendments on a case-by-case basis for the following reasons:

- Extension of the period of performance to complete the scope of work under the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity only in extenuating circumstances (such as those fire departments whose operations were significantly impacted due to presidentially declared disasters).
- Changes to the activity, mission, and retroactive approval (to pre-award) under Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity. Amendments to the scope of work are not allowable within the first year of award nor within the final 3 months of the grant’s period of performance.
- Closeout issues and some excess funds requests under both the Hiring of Firefighters Activity and Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity
- Staffing Maintenance Level Waivers under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity
- Budget changes (adding funds to award/non-closeout deobligation* of funds) under both the Hiring of Firefighters Activity and Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity
- Other changes to the awarded grant may also require specific amendments. Please contact your assigned Program Analyst for assistance in determining if an amendment is required.

FEMA will only consider amendments submitted via FEMA GO online. These requests must contain specific and compelling justifications for the requested change. FEMA strongly encourages recipients to expend grant funds in a timely manner, to be consistent with SAFER Grant Program’s goals and objectives.

**NOTE:** A recipient may deobligate (*i.e.*, return) unused funds (*i.e.*, those remaining funds previously drawn down via payment request and/or remaining award funding that was never requested) to DHS/FEMA prior to the end of an award’s period of performance or during closeout. To exercise this option prior to closeout, a recipient must submit an amendment via FEMA GO and state in its amendment that the unliquidated funds (funds to be returned) are not necessary for the fulfillment or success of the grant’s obligations or mission. The recipient must also indicate that it understands that the returned funds will be de-obligated and unavailable for any future award expenses.

De-obligation of funds will decrease the federal portion of the grant and the amount of the recipient’s cost share obligation. FEMA will confirm de-obligation amendments with all points of contact; after confirmation of the recipient’s intent to de-obligate, FEMA will hold the approved de-obligation request for 14 calendar days as a period for recipient reconsideration before processing the de-obligation request.

**Post-Award Recipient Responsibilities**

Once awarded, recipients under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity must submit a pre-SAFER roster listing paid operational/firefighting personnel, in support of NFPA 1710 or NFPA 1720, who are employees at time of application. FEMA compares the pre-SAFER roster to names submitted for SAFER-funded positions, to ensure that the SAFER-funded firefighters are new employees. Vacant operational positions (funded in the department’s budget and which when filled will support NFPA 1710 or 1720 compliance) will be indicated on the pre-SAFER roster and are included in the overall operational staffing. FEMA must include vacant positions as described above to ensure the non-supplanting requirement is met.

The SAFER Program Office will work with recipients to establish the correct staffing maintenance numbers, which combine the number of pre-SAFER (filled and vacant positions) and SAFER-funded operational positions. Once this is established, recipients must agree to maintain this number throughout the period of performance by taking active and timely steps to fill any vacancies.

Recipients under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity who lay off any operational
personnel during the three-year period of performance will be considered in default of their grant and the award will be terminated. In those situations, recipients may be required to return the federal funds disbursed under the grant award.

Recipients who are unable, due to documentable economic hardship, to backfill non-SAFER operational positions vacated through attrition (e.g., resignation, retirement) after receiving an award may petition FEMA to waive the staffing maintenance requirements. Approved waivers allow recipients to decrease and reestablish the staffing maintenance numbers agreed to at the time of award by the number of positions that recipients are unable to fill. To qualify for this waiver, the economic hardship must affect the entire public safety sector in a recipient’s jurisdiction, not just the fire department. FEMA will not grant waivers for SAFER-funded positions. Recipients who fail to maintain the required level of staffing risk losing federal funds awarded under this grant.

Since the SAFER program seeks to enhance incident scene safety, recipients must agree to make the primary assignments (more than 50 percent of time) of all SAFER-funded firefighters on an operational fire suppression vehicle, regardless of their collateral duties.

Recipients must agree to retain grant files and supporting documentation in a manner consistent with 2 C.F.R. § 200.333 – for a minimum of three years after submission of the closeout report (see below), and in some cases longer pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.

FEMA may require access to any pertinent books, documents, papers or records belonging to a recipient. The DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) or the Comptroller General of the United States may also require access to a recipient’s books and records.

The required documentation for federally funded purchases should include specifications, solicitations, competitive quotes or proposals, basis for selection decisions, purchase orders or contracts, invoices and canceled checks. Recipients who fail to document purchases may find their expenditures will be questioned and disallowed.

Recipients must agree to provide periodic performance reports to FEMA. In all years of the grant’s period of performance, for both the Hiring of Firefighters and the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activities, recipients must submit quarterly performance reports as well as a final performance report at grant closeout. Payments are requested online using the automated system and payments are based on actual expenses incurred during the period covered by the payment request. Quarterly performance reporting is required regardless of whether or when a recipient requested funding.

Recipients must agree that, notwithstanding any provision of other laws, firefighters hired under these grants will not be discriminated against or be prohibited from engaging in volunteer firefighting activities in another jurisdiction during off-duty hours. FEMA strongly encourages applicants, to the extent practicable, to seek, recruit and hire military veterans to increase their ranks within their departments.
Staff Report

**Subject:** Reappointment to the Aging Services Advisory Council  
**Author:** Stephanie Johnson, County Clerk  
**Department:** Administration  
**Meeting Date:** May 5, 2020  
**Item Description:** Consideration to approve to reappoint Ms. Lucy Powell and Ms. Linda Mercer to the Aging Services Advisory Council

**Summary Recommendation:** These two (2) citizens of the county currently serve and have served for a number of years on this council. Staff received a letter from the Coastal Regional Commission requesting their reappointment. Their current terms of office are set to expire June 30, 2020. If reappointed, the new term will begin July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. Staff recommends approval of the reappointment.

**Executive Summary/Background:** One of the functions of the Coastal Regional Commission is to provide programs to older adults and caregivers in our region. One of the requirements under the Older Americans Act and the State Office of Aging Regulations is to have an active Aging Services Advisory Council. An active member may serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms of membership.

**Alternatives for Commission to Consider**
1. Approve to reappoint Ms. Lucy Powell and Ms. Linda Mercer to the Aging Services Advisory Council  
2. Do not approve the reappoints and seek other individuals to serve in this capacity.

**Recommended Alternative:**  
Approve Alternate 1.

**Other Alternatives:**  
To postpone to a later date; deny the request

**Department Review:** Administration

**Funding Source:**

**Attachments:**
1. CRC Request Letter
November 26, 2019

Chairman Wesley Corbitt
Effingham County Commission
601 North Laurel Street
Springfield, GA 31329

Dear Chairman Corbitt:

As you know, one of the functions of the Coastal Regional Commission is to provide programs to older adults and caregivers in our region (mainly through contracts) with more than 18 service providers throughout our nine-county region. One of the requirements that we have under the Older Americans Act and the State Office of Aging Regulations is to have an active Aging Services Advisory Council.

According to the Advisory Council Bylaws, Term of Membership: *Active council members may serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms of membership as long as the member is actively attending council meetings. However, the city / county must reappoint the council member every three years.* Thank you for reappointing Mrs. Linda Wright to the Aging Services Advisory Council for the term that will run through June 30, 2022. Ms. Lucy Powell and Ms. Linda Mercer regularly attending our Council meetings; their terms will both expire on June 30, 2020. We would like to have them reappointed to our Advisory Council for the term beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.

The appointed individuals should be consumers, aging advocates, other interested individuals, or local elected officials. The role of the council and its members is very important inasmuch as it meets with the staff from time to time to review budgets, get updates on new programs, and provide input on how current and new programs are developed. These activities enable us to provide better services to the older adults of your community. The council must meet quarterly, and the meetings are generally held on the fourth Tuesday of January, April, July and October, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Richmond Hill City Center.

If you have any questions, please call Dionne Lovett, Aging Services Director, at (912) 437-0840.

Sincerely,

Dionne Lovett
Aging Services Director

cc: Stephanie Johnson, County Clerk
Staff Report

Subject: Reappointment of Coastal Workforce Development Board Member
Author: Stephanie Johnson, County Clerk
Department: Administration
Meeting Date: May 5, 2020
Item Description: Consideration to approve to reappoint Mr. David Atkins to the Coastal Workforce Development Board

Summary Recommendation: Mr. Atkins of the Atkins Agency currently serves and has served for a number of years on this council. Staff received a letter from the Coastal Workforce Development Board requesting his reappointment. His current term of office is set to expire June 30, 2020. If reappointed, the new term will begin July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022. Staff recommends approval of the reappointment.

Executive Summary/Background: The Coastal Workforce Development Board (CWDB) consists of a minimum of nineteen (19) members: Ten (10) business representatives; (4) four workforce representatives; two (2) education and training representatives; and three (3) government and economic development representatives. Mr. David Atkins will be reappointed to the Board as a Business representative.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:
1. Approve to reappoint Mr. David Atkins to the Coastal Workforce Development Board.
2. Do not approve to reappoint Mr. David Atkins to the Coastal Workforce Development Board.

Recommended Alternative:
Approve Alternate 1.

Other Alternatives:
To postpone to a later date; deny the request

Department Review: Administration

Funding Source:

Attachments:
1. CWDB Request Letter
March 9, 2020

Effingham County Clerk Office  
Attention: Stephanie Johnson  
Address: 601 North Laurel St  
Springfield, GA 31329

RE: Re-Appointment of Coastal Workforce Development Board Member

Dear Ms. Johnson:

The Coastal Workforce Development Board (CWDB) is requesting the re-appointment of a Coastal Workforce Development Board Member, Mr. David Atkins of The Atkins Agency to fill one (1) Business Representative vacancy for under a two (2) year term ending June 30, 2022. In order for the CWDB to be certified by its governing agency, the Technical College System of Georgia —Office of Workforce Development (TCSG-OWD), this action must be taken at your next Commissioner’s Meeting.

Under WIOA, all Chief/Local Elected Officials must affirm all re/appointments under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 regulations.

For your reference, the new WIOA Local Workforce Development Board requirements are as follows:

**Business Representatives (minimum 10)** - A majority (51%) of the members of each local board shall be representatives of business in the local area, who-

- are owners of business, chief executives or operating officers of business, or other businesses executives or employers with optimum policymaking or hiring authority;
- represent businesses, including small businesses, or organizations representing businesses described in this clause, that provide employment opportunities that, at a minimum, include high-quality, work-relevant training and development in in-demand industry sectors or occupations in local areas; and
- are appointed from among individuals nominated by local business organizations and business trade associations.

**Workforce Representatives (Labor, Community Based Organization and Youth Serving Organizations) (minimum 4)** - Not less than 20% of the members of each local board shall be representatives of the workforce within the local area, who-

- shall include representatives of labor organizations (for a local area in which employees are represented by labor organizations), who have been nominated by local labor federations, or (for a local area in which no employees are represented by such organizations) other representatives of employees; (2 minimum)
may include representatives of community based organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the employment needs of individuals with barriers to employment, including organizations that serve veterans or that provide or support competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities; and

may include representative of organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the employment, training, or education needs of eligible youth, including representatives of organizations that serve out-of-school youth.

**Education and Training Representatives (minimum 2)** - each local Board shall include representatives of entities administering education and training activities in the local area, who-

- shall include a representative of eligible providers administering adult education and literacy activities under title II;
- shall include a representative of institutions of higher education providing workforce investment activities (including community colleges); and
- may include representatives of local educational agencies, and of community-based organizations with demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the education or training needs of individuals with barriers to employment.

**Government And Economic Development Representatives (minimum 3)** - Each local board shall include representatives of governmental and economic and community development entities serving the local area, who-

- shall include a representative of economic and community development entities;
- shall include an appropriate representative from the State employment service office under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) serving the local area;
- shall include an appropriate representative of the programs carried out under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732,741), serving the local area;
- may include representative of agencies or entities administering programs serving the local area relating to transporting, housing, and public assistance; and
- may include representatives of philanthropic organizations serving the local area.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the WorkSource Coastal office at (912) 351-6381.

Thank You,

Tiffani Smashum
Administrative Assistant
The Georgia Conflict of Interest in Zoning Action Statue (O.C.G.A. §§ 36-67A-1 et seq.) requires disclosure of certain campaign contributions made by applicants for rezoning actions and by opponents of rezoning application. A rezoning applicant or opponent of a rezoning application must disclose contributions or gifts which in aggregate total $250.00 or more if made within the last two years to a current member of Effingham County Planning Board, Board of Commissioners, or other Effingham County official who will consider the application. The campaign contribution disclosure requirement applies to an opponent of a rezoning application who publishes his or her opposition by appearance before the Planning Board or Board of Commissioners or by any other oral or written communication to a member or members of the Planning Board or Board of Commissioners. Disclosure must be reported to the Board of Commissioners by applicants within ten (10) days after the rezoning application is filed and by opponents at least five (5) days prior to the first hearing by the Planning Board. Any person knowing failing to comply with these requirements shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

“Individuals with disabilities who require special needs to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities should contact the County Clerk at 912-754-2123 promptly to afford the County time to create reasonable accommodations for those persons.”

**PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE**

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<tr>
<th>Items of Business</th>
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<th>Previous Action of Commissioners</th>
<th>Action Taken</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I Call to Order</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vice Chair Deloach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II Invocation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vice Chair Deloach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III Agenda Approval</td>
<td>Consideration of a Resolution to approve the agenda</td>
<td>Approved as read</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV Minutes</td>
<td>Consideration to approve the April 21, 2020 special called teleconference meetings</td>
<td>Approved as read</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>V Public Comments</td>
<td>Agenda Items ONLY</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stated by Vice Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI Correspondence</td>
<td>Documents from this meeting are located in the Clerk’s office and on the Board of Commissioner’s website</td>
<td>Stated by Vice Chair</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>VII Old Business</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 Public Hearing</td>
<td>The Planning Board recommends approving an application by Richard &amp; Debbie McIntosh for a Variance to occupy a camper as a temporary dwelling during construction of a residence located at 1157 Harry Lindsey Road Map# 236 Parcel# 5D in the Third District (this item is on the agenda to amend the stipulations as intended at the 04/21/2020 meeting)</td>
<td>Approved 04/21/2020</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 2nd Reading</td>
<td>Consideration to approve the Second Reading of an application by Richard &amp; Debbie McIntosh for a Variance to occupy a camper as a temporary dwelling during construction of a residence located at 1157 Harry Lindsey Road Map# 236 Parcel# 5D in the Third District (this item is on the agenda to amend</td>
<td>Approved 04/21/2020</td>
<td>Approved 2nd Reading</td>
</tr>
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<td>VIII Consent Agenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>01 Agreement</td>
<td>Consideration to approve the renew the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Accountability Court Agreement</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>02 Agreement</td>
<td>Consideration to approve to renew the Inmate Commissary Agreement with McDaniel Supply Company</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<th>IX New Business</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Payment</td>
<td>Consideration to approve to not accept the CARES Act payment and remit the full payment back to the Department of Health and Human Services</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christy Carpenter</td>
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</table>

| 02 Budget        | Consideration to approve a Resolution to amend the FY2019-2020 Budget | Approved |
| Christy Carpenter |  |  |

| 03 Grant         | Consideration to approve to submit an application for Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant | Approved |
| Christy Carpenter |  |  |

| 04 Appointment   | Consideration to approve to reappoint Ms. Lucy Powell and Ms. Linda Mercer to the Aging Services Advisory Council | Approved |
| Stephanie Johnson |  |  |

| 05 Appointment   | Consideration to approve the reappoint Mr. David Atkins to the Coastal Workforce Development Board | Approved |
| Stephanie Johnson |  |  |

| X Adjournment    |  | 4:50 pm |

Members Present:
Wesley Corbitt
Forrest Floyd
Roger Burdette
Jamie Deloach
Reginald Loper
Phil Kieffer