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Assistance to Firefighters Program: Distribution of Fire Grant Funding

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Assistance to Firefighters Program: Distribution of Fire Grant Funding

Abstract

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program, also known as fire grants or the FIRE Act grant program, was established by Title XVII of the FY2001 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 106-398). Currently administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the program provides federal grants directly to local fire departments and unaffiliated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations to help address a variety of equipment, training, and other firefighter-related and EMS needs. A related program is the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters (SAFER) program, which provides grants for hiring, recruiting, and retaining firefighters.

The fire grant program is now in its 13th year. The Fire Act statute was reauthorized in 2012 (Title XVIII of P.L. 112-239) and provides new guidelines on how fire grant money should be distributed. There is no set geographical formula for the distribution of fire grants—fire departments throughout the nation apply, and award decisions are made by a peer panel based on the merits of the application and the needs of the community. However, the law does require that fire grants be distributed to a diverse mix of fire departments, with respect to type of department (paid, volunteer, or combination), geographic location, and type of community served (e.g., urban, suburban, or rural).

For FY2012, P.L. 112-74, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, provided \$675 million for firefighter assistance, including \$337.5 million for AFG and \$337.5 million for SAFER. The Administration's FY2013 budget proposed \$670 million for firefighter assistance, including \$335 million for AFG and \$335 million for SAFER. The Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2013 (P.L. 112-175), funds firefighter assistance programs through the first six months of FY2013 at an increase of 0.612% of the FY2012 level. Therefore, under the FY2013 continuing resolution, AFG is funded at \$339.5 million and SAFER is funded at \$339.5 million through March 2013.

The 113th Congress will likely consider FY2013 and FY2014 budget appropriations for AFG and SAFER. As is the case with many federal programs, concerns over the federal budget deficit could impact budget levels for AFG and SAFER. At the same time, firefighter assistance budgets will likely receive heightened scrutiny from the fire community, given the local budgetary cutbacks that many fire departments are facing.

Keywords

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, AFG, Emergency Medical Services, EMS, firefighters, Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, Congress

Comments

Suggested Citation

Kruger, L. G. (2013). *Assistance to Firefighters program: Distribution of fire grant funding*. Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service.



Assistance to Firefighters Program: Distribution of Fire Grant Funding

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January 10, 2013

Congressional Research Service

7-5700

www.crs.gov

RL32341

Summary

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program, also known as fire grants or the FIRE Act grant program, was established by Title XVII of the FY2001 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 106-398). Currently administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the program provides federal grants directly to local fire departments and unaffiliated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations to help address a variety of equipment, training, and other firefighter-related and EMS needs. A related program is the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters (SAFER) program, which provides grants for hiring, recruiting, and retaining firefighters.

The fire grant program is now in its 13th year. The Fire Act statute was reauthorized in 2012 (Title XVIII of P.L. 112-239) and provides new guidelines on how fire grant money should be distributed. There is no set geographical formula for the distribution of fire grants—fire departments throughout the nation apply, and award decisions are made by a peer panel based on the merits of the application and the needs of the community. However, the law does require that fire grants be distributed to a diverse mix of fire departments, with respect to type of department (paid, volunteer, or combination), geographic location, and type of community served (e.g., urban, suburban, or rural).

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Background

Firefighting activities are traditionally the responsibility of states and local communities. As such, funding for firefighters is provided mostly by state and local governments. During the 1990s, shortfalls in state and local budgets, coupled with increased responsibilities of local fire departments, led many in the fire community to call for additional financial support from the federal government. Although federally funded training programs existed (and continue to exist) through the National Fire Academy, and although federal money was available to first responders for counterterrorism training and equipment through the Department of Justice, there did not exist a dedicated program, exclusively for firefighters, which provided federal money directly to local fire departments to help address a wide variety of equipment, training, and other firefighter-related needs.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

During the 106th Congress, many in the fire community asserted that local fire departments require and deserve greater support from the federal government. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), also known as fire grants or the FIRE Act grant program, was established by Title XVII of the FY2001 Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 106-398).¹ Currently administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the program provides federal grants directly to local fire departments and unaffiliated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations to help address a variety of equipment, training, and other firefighter-related and EMS needs.

Since its establishment, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program has been reauthorized twice. The first reauthorization was Title XXXVI of the FY2005 Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 108-375), which authorized the program through FY2009. The second and current reauthorization is Title XVIII, Subtitle A of the FY2013 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 112-239), which authorizes the program through FY2017 and modifies program rules for disbursing grant money.

Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2012

On January 2, 2013, the President signed P.L. 112-239, the FY2013 National Defense Authorization Act. Title XVIII, Subtitle A is the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2012, which authorizes the fire grant program through FY2017. **Table 1** provides a summary of key provisions of the 2012 reauthorization, and provides a comparison with the previous statute.

¹ “Firefighter assistance” is codified as §33 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2229).

Table I. Key Provisions of Fire Grant Reauthorization

| Previous Statute (15 U.S.C. 2229 and 15 U.S.C. 2229a) | Fire Grant Reauthorization Act of 2012 (Title XVIII of P.L. 112-239) |
|---|---|
| <i>Grant money allocation</i> | |
| volunteer and combination fire departments shall receive a proportion of the total grant funding that is not less than the proportion of the U.S. population that those departments protect | not less than 25% to career fire departments not less than 25% to volunteer fire departments not less than 25% to combination and paid-on-call fire departments not less than 10% for open competition among career, volunteer, combination, and paid-on-call fire departments |
| 5% (minimum) to fire prevention and safety grants | not less than 10% to fire prevention and safety grants no fire prevention and safety grant may exceed \$1.5 million includes establishment of fire-safety research centers to conduct research to improve firefighter health and safety no fire prevention and safety grant may be provided to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) |
| 3.5% (minimum) to EMS provided by fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations | not less than 3.5% to EMS provided by fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations |
| 2% (maximum) to nonaffiliated EMS organizations | not more than 2% to nonaffiliated EMS organizations not more than 3% to State training academies, no more than \$1 million per state academy in any fiscal year not more than 25% for purchasing vehicles |
| <i>Grant recipient limits</i> | |
| populations over 1 million—lesser of \$2.75 million or 0.5% of total appropriation | \$9 million—over 2.5m population \$6 million—1m to 2.5m population |
| populations of 500K to 1 million—\$1.75 million | \$3 million—500K to 1m population |
| populations under 500K—\$1 million | \$2 million—100 to 500K population |
| no single grant can exceed 0.5% of total funds appropriated for a single fiscal year | \$1 million—under 100K population |
| DHS can waive the funding limits for populations up to 1 million in instances of extraordinary need; however the lesser of \$2.75 million or 0.5% limit cannot be waived | FEMA may not award a grant exceeding 1% of all available grant funds, unless FEMA determines extraordinary need |
| <i>Nonfederal match requirements</i> | |
| 20% for populations over 50,000 | 15% for populations over 1 million |
| 10% for populations 20,000 to 50,000 | 10% for populations 20,000 to 1 million |
| 5% for populations less than 20,000 | 5% for populations under 20,000 |
| No match requirement for non-fire department prevention and firefighter safety grants | 5% match required for fire prevention and safety grants |
| <i>Maintenance of expenditures</i> | |
| requires applicants to maintain expenditures at the same level as the average over the preceding two fiscal years | requires applicants to maintain expenditures at or above 80% of the average over the preceding two fiscal years |

| Previous Statute (15 U.S.C. 2229 and 15 U.S.C. 2229a) | Fire Grant Reauthorization Act of 2012 (Title XVIII of P.L. 112-239) |
|---|---|
| <i>Economic hardship waivers</i> | |
| no economic hardship waivers available | waivers available for nonfederal matching and maintenance of expenditures requirements, FEMA will develop economic hardship waiver guidelines considering unemployment rates, percentages of individuals eligible to receive food stamps, and other factors as appropriate. |
| <i>Authorization levels</i> | |
| FY2005—\$900 million | FY2013—\$750 million |
| FY2006—\$950 million | for each of FY2014-FY2017, an amount equal to the amount authorized the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index for the previous fiscal year exceeds the preceding year. |
| FY2007—\$1 billion | |
| FY2008—\$1 billion | |
| FY2009—\$1 billion | |
| <i>Congressionally Directed Spending</i> | |
| no provision | no funds may be used for any congressionally directed spending item (as defined under the rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives) |
| <i>Sunset</i> | |
| none | the authority to award assistance and grants shall expire five years after the date of enactment |
| <i>SAFER grants</i> | |
| grant period is 4 years, grantees are required to retain for at least 1 year beyond the termination of their grants those firefighter positions hired under the grant | shortens the grant period to three years, with no requirement that fire departments must retain SAFER funded firefighters for an extra year |
| year 1—10% local match | year 1—25% local match |
| year 2—20% local match | year 2—25% local match |
| year 3—50% local match | year 3—65% local match |
| year 4—70% local match | |
| total funding over 4 years for hiring a firefighter may not exceed \$100K, adjusted annually for inflation | for the first year, the amount of funding provided for hiring a firefighter may not exceed 75% of the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter in that department at the time the grant application was submitted for the second year, the amount of funding provided for hiring a firefighter may not exceed 75% of the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter in that department at the time the grant application was submitted for the third year, the amount of funding provided for hiring a firefighter may not exceed 35% of the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter in that department at the time the grant application was submitted |
| state, local, and Indian tribal governments eligible for recruitment and retention funds | additionally makes national organizations eligible for recruitment and retention funds allows FEMA, in the case of economic hardship, to waive cost share requirements, as well as the prohibition on supplanting local funds and maintenance of expenditure requirements (which would allow grants to be used for retention and rehiring laid-off firefighters) |

| Previous Statute (15 U.S.C. 2229 and 15 U.S.C. 2229a) | Fire Grant Reauthorization Act of 2012 (Title XVIII of P.L. 112-239) |
|---|---|
| authorized for 7 years starting at \$1 billion in FY2004, ending at \$1.194 billion in FY2010 | reauthorizes the SAFER grant program at \$750 million for FY2013; for each of FY2014-FY2017, an amount equal to the amount authorized the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index for the previous fiscal year exceeds the preceding year |
| | no funds may be used for any congressionally directed spending item (as defined under the rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives) |
| authority to make grants shall lapse 10 years from November 24, 2003 | the authority to award assistance and grants shall expire five years after the date of enactment |

Source: Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2012, Title VIII, Subtitle A of FY2013 National Defense Authorization Act, P.L. 112-239.

Appropriations

From FY2001 through FY2003, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program (as part of USFA/FEMA) received its primary appropriation through the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriation Act. In FY2004, the Assistance to Firefighters Program began to receive its annual appropriation through the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Homeland Security. Within the DHS/FEMA budget, the firefighter assistance account (which includes both AFG and SAFER) is located within State and Local Programs (SLP) as part of the First Responder Assistance Programs (FRAP).

The fire grant program is in its 13th year. **Table 2** shows the appropriations history for firefighter assistance, including AFG, SAFER, and the Fire Station Construction Grants (SCG) provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). **Table 3** shows recent and proposed appropriated funding for the AFG and SAFER grant programs.

Table 2. Appropriations for Firefighter Assistance, FY2001-FY2013

| | AFG | SAFER | SCG^a | Total |
|--------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| FY2001 | \$100 million | | | \$100 million |
| FY2002 | \$360 million | | | \$360 million |
| FY2003 | \$745 million | | | \$745 million |
| FY2004 | \$746 million | | | \$746 million |
| FY2005 | \$650 million | \$65 million | | \$715 million |
| FY2006 | \$539 million | \$109 million | | \$648 million |
| FY2007 | \$547 million | \$115 million | | \$662 million |
| FY2008 | \$560 million | \$190 million | | \$750 million |
| FY2009 | \$565 million | \$210 million | \$210 million | \$985 million |
| FY2010 | \$390 million | \$420 million | | \$810 million |
| FY2011 | \$405 million | \$405 million | | \$810 million |
| FY2012 | \$337.5 million | \$337.5 million | | \$675 million |

| | AFG | SAFER | SCG^a | Total |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| FY2013 ^b | \$339.5 million | \$339.5 million | | \$679 million |
| Total | \$6.283 billion | \$2.190 billion | \$210 million | \$8.684 billion |

- a. Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grants (SCG) grants were funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5).
- b. Through March 2013 (P.L. 112-175, Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2013).

Table 3. Recent and Proposed Appropriations for Firefighter Assistance
(millions of dollars)

| | FY2011 (Admin. request) | FY2011 (P.L. 112-10) | FY2012 (Admin. request) | FY2012 (P.L. 112-74) | FY2013 (Admin. request) | FY2013 (H.R. 5855) | FY2013 (S. 3216) | FY2013 (P.L. 112- 175)^a |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| FIRE Grants (AFG) | 305 | 405 | 250 | 337.5 | 335 | 337.5 | 337.5 | 339.5 |
| SAFER Grants | 305 | 405 | 420 | 337.5 | 335 | 337.5 | 337.5 | 339.5 |
| Total | 610 | 810 | 670 | 675 | 670 | 675 | 675 | 679 |

- a. The Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2013 funds AFG and SAFER through March 2013.

FY2011

The Administration’s FY2011 budget proposed \$305 million for AFG (a 22% decrease from the FY2010 level) and \$305 million for SAFER (a 27% decrease). The total amount requested for firefighter assistance (AFG and SAFER) was \$610 million, a 25% decrease from FY2010. The FY2011 budget proposal stated that the firefighter assistance grant process “will give priority to applications that enhance capabilities for terrorism response and other major incidents.”²

On June 24, 2010, the House Subcommittee on Homeland Security Appropriations approved \$840 million for firefighter assistance, including \$420 million for AFG and \$420 million for SAFER.

On July 19, 2010, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$810 million for firefighter assistance (including \$390 million for AFG and \$420 million for SAFER), the same level as FY2010 and 33% more than the Administration proposal. In the bill report (S.Rept. 111-222), the committee directed DHS to continue funding applications according to local priorities and priorities established by the United States Fire Administration, and to continue direct funding to fire departments and the peer review process. The committee also directed FEMA to submit the U.S. Fire Service Needs Assessment, and to brief the committee regarding the implementation of

² Office of Management and Budget, Appendix: Budget of the United States Government, FY2011, p. 557.

the recommendations of the recent GAO report (GAO-10-64) on additional actions which would improve the grants process.

H.R. 1, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011, as introduced on February 11, 2011, would have provided \$300 million to AFG and zero funding for SAFER. However, on February 16, 2011, H.Amdt. 38 (offered by Representative Pascrell and agreed to by the House by a vote of 318-113) restored AFG to \$390 million and SAFER to \$420 million (the FY2010 levels). H.R. 1 was passed by the House on February 18, 2011. S.Amdt. 149 to H.R. 1—which was rejected by the full Senate on March 9, 2011—would have funded AFG at \$405 million and SAFER at \$405 million.

Subsequently, the full-year continuing appropriation bill for FY2011, which was signed into law on April 15, 2011 (Department of Defense and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011, P.L. 112-10), funded AFG at \$405 million and SAFER at \$405 million for FY2011. P.L. 112-10 also contained language that removes FY2011 SAFER cost-share requirements and allows SAFER grants to be used to rehire laid-off firefighters and fill positions eliminated through attrition. However, P.L. 112-10 did not remove the requirement that SAFER grants fund a firefighter position for four years, with the fifth year funded wholly by the grant recipient. The law also did not waive the cap of \$100K per firefighter hired by a SAFER grant.

FY2012

The Administration's FY2012 budget proposed \$670 million for firefighter assistance, including \$250 million for AFG and \$420 million for SAFER. According to the budget proposal, the request would fund 2,200 firefighter positions and approximately 5,000 AFG grants. The FY2012 budget proposal stated that the firefighter assistance grant process "will give priority to applications that enhance capabilities for terrorism response and other major incidents."³

The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations, 2012, bill (H.R. 2017) was reported by the House Appropriations Committee on May 26, 2011. The House Committee bill would have provided \$350 million for firefighter assistance, including \$200 million for AFG and \$150 million for SAFER. The House Appropriations bill report (H.Rept. 112-91) directed FEMA to continue granting funds directly to local fire departments and to include the United States Fire Administration during the grant decision process. FEMA was also directed to maintain an all-hazards focus and was prohibited from limiting beyond current law the list of eligible activities, including those related to wellness.

During the House floor consideration of H.R. 2017, two firefighter assistance amendments were adopted. The first amendment (offered by Mr. LaTourette and Mr. Pascrell, and agreed to by a recorded vote of 333-87) raised FY2012 funding levels to \$335 million for AFG and \$335 million for SAFER. The total level for firefighter assistance (\$670 million) is equal to the level requested by the Administration.

The second amendment (offered by Mr. Price of North Carolina and agreed to by a recorded vote of 264-157) prohibited enforcement of various SAFER requirements for grantees. These waivers would allow FY2012 SAFER grants to be used to rehire laid-off firefighters and fill positions eliminated through attrition, remove cost-share requirements, allow grants to extend longer than

³ Office of Management and Budget, Appendix: Budget of the United States Government, FY2012, p. 538.

the current five year duration, and permit the amount of funding per position at levels exceeding the current limit of \$100,000.

The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations, 2012, bill (H.R. 2017) was passed by the House on June 2, 2011.

On September 7, 2011, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$750 million for firefighter assistance in FY2012 (S.Rept. 112-74), which is a 12% increase over the House-passed level. The total included \$375 million for AFG and \$375 million for SAFER. As does the House bill, the Senate bill also waived or prohibited SAFER requirements in FY2012.

P.L. 112-74, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY2012, provided \$675 million for firefighter assistance, including \$337.5 million for AFG and \$337.5 million for SAFER. The conference report directed FEMA to continue funding applications according to local priorities and those established by the USFA, to maintain an all hazards focus, and to continue the current grant application and review process as specified in the House report.

FY2013

The Administration's FY2013 budget proposed \$670 million for firefighter assistance, including \$335 million for AFG and \$335 million for SAFER. This is a decrease of \$5 million from the FY2012 level. The Firefighter Assistance Grants would be categorized under First Responder Assistance Programs (FRAP), one of three activities under FEMA's State and Local Programs (SLP) appropriation.

Historically, DHS has requested that a percentage of AFG funding (up to 5%) be set aside for management and administration of the grant program. Starting in FY2013, grant administration (for AFG and SAFER) would be shifted to the SLP Management and Administration office. According to DHS, this will make an additional \$28.8 million of the Firefighter Assistance appropriation available for grants.

On May 16, 2012, The House Appropriations Committee approved its version of the FY2013 Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill (H.R. 5855). While the committee mark is identical to the Administration requested level—\$335 million for AFG and \$335 million for SAFER—the committee denied the Administration's request to shift AFG and SAFER into the State and Local Programs account. Unlike the Administration request, H.R. 5855 would designate up to 4.7% of the amount appropriated to firefighter assistance for program administration. The committee report (H.Rept. 112-492) directed FEMA to continue granting funds directly to local fire departments and to include the United States Fire Administration during the grant decision process. FEMA was also directed to maintain an all-hazards focus and was prohibited from limiting beyond current law the list of eligible activities, including those related to wellness. The committee continued the requirement for peer review and directed FEMA to provide official notifications to rejected applicants who do not meet the criteria for peer review.

During floor action on June 6, 2012, an amendment was offered by Representative Runyan to increase funding for AFG and SAFER by \$2.5 million each, taking its \$5 million offset from the Office of the Undersecretary for Management. The amendment passed by voice vote, bringing the firefighter assistance account to \$675 million (\$337.5 million AFG, \$337.5 million SAFER), which is identical to the FY2012 level. H.R. 5855 was passed by the House on June 7, 2012.

On May 22, 2012, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$675 million for firefighter assistance for FY2013 (S. 3216). This level includes \$337.5 million for AFG and \$337.5 million for SAFER. The Senate level is identical to the FY2012 level. Like the House, the committee denied the Administration's request to shift AFG and SAFER into the State and Local Programs account. However, the committee has included program and administration costs separately under the FEMA "Salaries and Expenses" account. The committee report (S.Rept. 112-169) noted that under this scenario, the entire appropriation of \$675 million would be used for grants, while administrative costs (\$33.75 million) would be funded by the Salaries and Expenses account. The committee report also directed DHS to continue the practice of funding applications according to local priorities and those established by the USFA, and to continue direct funding to fire departments and the peer review process.

The Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2013 (P.L. 112-175) funds firefighter assistance programs through the first six months of FY2013 at an increase of 0.612% of the FY2012 level. Therefore, under the FY2013 continuing resolution, AFG is funded at \$339.5 million and SAFER is funded at \$339.5 million. Meanwhile, the potential sequestration across the federal government, if implemented, would subject the DHS State and Local Programs account (which includes AFG and SAFER) to an 8.2% budget reduction on January 2, 2013.

Fire Station Construction Grants in the ARRA

Since its inception, the traditional fire grant program has provided money specifically for health and safety related modifications of fire stations, but has not funded major upgrades, renovations, or construction. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 (P.L. 111-5) provided an additional \$210 million in firefighter assistance grants for modifying, upgrading, or constructing state and local non-federal fire stations, provided that 5% be set aside for program administration, and provided that no grant shall exceed \$15 million. The conference report (H.Rept. 111-16) cited DHS estimates that this spending would create 2,000 jobs. The ARRA also included a provision (§603) that waived the matching requirement for SAFER grants funded by appropriations in FY2009 and FY2010.

The application period for ARRA Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grants (SCG) opened on June 11 and closed on July 10, 2009. There is no cost share requirement for SCG grants. Eligible applicants are non-federal fire departments that provide fire protection services to local communities. Ineligible applicants include federal fire departments, EMS or rescue organizations, airport fire departments, for-profit fire departments, fire training centers, emergency communications centers, auxiliaries and fire service organizations or associations, and search and rescue teams or similar organizations without fire suppression responsibilities.

DHS/FEMA received 6,025 SCG applications for \$9.9 billion in federal funds.⁴ As of October 1, 2010, 119 SCG grants were awarded, totaling \$207.461 million to fire departments within the United States. A complete list of SCG awards is available at <http://www.fema.gov/rules-tools/assistance-firefighters-station-construction-grants>.

⁴ Detailed SCG application statistics are available at <http://www.firegrantsupport.com/docs/2009AFSCGAppStats.pdf>.

On February 15, 2011, the Firefighting Investment, Renewal, and Employment Act or FIRE Act (H.R. 716) was introduced to authorize \$210 million for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 for competitive grants for modifying, upgrading, or constructing nonfederal fire stations.

SAFER Grants

In response to concerns over the adequacy of firefighter staffing, the 108th Congress enacted the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Act as Section 1057 of the FY2004 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 108-136; signed into law November 24, 2003). The SAFER grant program is codified as Section 34 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a). The SAFER Act authorizes grants to career, volunteer, and combination fire departments for the purpose of 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. Also authorized are grants to volunteer fire departments for activities related to the recruitment and retention of volunteers. For more information on the SAFER program, see CRS Report RL33375, *Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response: The SAFER Grant Program*, by Lennard G. Kruger.

Program Evaluation

On May 13, 2003, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) released the first independent evaluation of the Assistance to Firefighters Program. Conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Leadership Development Academy Executive Potential Program, the survey study presented a number of recommendations and concluded overall that the program was "highly effective in improving the readiness and capabilities of firefighters across the nation."⁵ Another evaluation of the fire grant program was released by the DHS Office of Inspector General in September 2003. The report concluded that the program "succeeded in achieving a balanced distribution of funding through a competitive grant process,"⁶ and made a number of specific recommendations for improving the program.

At the request of DHS, the National Academy of Public Administration conducted a study to help identify potential new strategic directions for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program and to provide advice on how to effectively plan, manage, and measure program accomplishments. Released in April 2007, the report recommended consideration of new strategic directions related to national preparedness, prevention vs. response, social equity, regional cooperation, and emergency medical response. According to the report, the "challenge for the AFG program will be to support a gradual shift in direction without losing major strengths of its current management approach—including industry driven priority setting and its well-respected peer review process."⁷

⁵ For full report see <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/affgp-fy01-usda-report.pdf>.

⁶ Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspections, Evaluations, and Special Reviews, "A Review of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program," OIG-ISP-01-03, September 2003, p. 3. Available at http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmtrpts/OIG_Review_Fire_Assist.pdf.

⁷ National Academy of Public Administration, *Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program: Assessing Performance*, April 2007, p. xvii. Available at http://www.napawash.org/pc_management_studies/Fire_Grants_Report_April2007.pdf.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-161), in the accompanying Joint Explanatory Statement, directed the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review the application and award process for fire and SAFER grants. Additionally, FEMA was directed to peer review grant applications that best address the program's priorities and criteria as established by FEMA and the fire service. Those criteria necessary for peer-review must be included in the grant application package. Applicants whose grant applications are not reviewed must receive an official notification detailing why the application did not meet the criteria for review. Applications must be rank-ordered, and funded following the rank order.

In October 2009, GAO sent a report to Congress finding that FEMA has met most statutory requirements for awarding fire grants.⁸ GAO recommended that FEMA establish a procedure to track EMS awards, ensure that grant priorities are better aligned with application questions and scoring values, and provide specific feedback to rejected applicants.

In June 2011, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) released its *Third Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service*, which seeks to identify gaps and needs in the fire service, and measures the impact that fire grants have had on filling those gaps and needs. According to the study:

Needs have declined to a considerable degree in a number of areas, particularly personal protective and firefighting equipment, two types of resource that received the largest shares of funding from the Assistance to Firefighters grants (AFG). Declines in needs have been more modest in some other important areas, such as training, which have received much smaller shares of AFG grant funds.⁹

Reports Mandated by Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2012

P.L. 112-239 mandates reports and studies on the AFG and SAFER programs, as well as on the state of the fire service.

- FEMA is directed to develop a performance assessment system to evaluate AFG and SAFER grants. FEMA shall submit annual reports to Congress providing information on its performance assessment system, an evaluation of AFG and SAFER grant effectiveness, and recommendations for legislative changes to improve grant effectiveness.
- The Comptroller General is directed to submit a report to Congress assessing the effect of the amendments to the AFG and SAFER statute made by the Fire Grants Reauthorization of 2012.
- The United States Fire Administration (USFA) is directed to conduct a study on the level of compliance with national voluntary consensus standards for staffing, training, safe operations, personal protective equipment, and fitness among the fire services of the United States.

⁸ U.S. Government Accountability Office, *Fire Grants: FEMA Has Met Most Requirements for Awarding Fire Grants, but Additional Actions Would Improve Its Grant Process*, GAO-10-64, October 2009, <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d1064.pdf>.

⁹ National Fire Protection Association, *Third Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service*, June 2011, abstract. Available at <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files//2011NeedsAssessment.pdf>.

- The Secretary of Homeland Security is directed to establish a Task Force to Enhance Firefighter Safety, which will review the USFA study on fire service standards and develop a plan to enhance firefighter safety by increasing fire service standards compliance. The Task Force will report its findings to Congress and DHS.
- USFA is directed to conduct a study and report on the needs of the fire service.

Distribution of Fire Grants

The AFG statute prescribes different purposes for which fire grant money may be used. These are training firefighting personnel; creating rapid intervention teams; certifying fire inspectors and building inspectors whose responsibilities include fire safety inspections and who are associated with a fire department; establishing wellness and fitness programs, including mental health programs; funding emergency medical services (EMS) provided by fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations; acquiring firefighting vehicles; acquiring firefighting equipment; acquiring personal protective equipment; modifying fire stations, fire training facilities, and other facilities for health and safety; educating the public about arson prevention and detection; providing incentives for the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters; and supporting other activities as FEMA determines appropriate. FEMA has the discretion to decide which of those purposes will be funded for a given grant year. Since the program commenced in FY2001, the majority of fire grant funding has been used by fire departments to purchase firefighting equipment, personal protective equipment, and firefighting vehicles.

Eligible applicants are limited primarily to fire departments (defined as an agency or organization that has a formally recognized arrangement with a state, local, or tribal authority to provide fire suppression, fire prevention, and rescue services to a population within a fixed geographical area). Emergency Medical Services (EMS) activities are eligible for fire grants, including a limited number to EMS organizations not affiliated with hospitals.

Additionally, a separate competition is held for fire prevention and firefighter safety research and development grants, which are available to fire departments; national, state, local, tribal, or nonprofit organizations recognized for their fire safety or prevention expertise; and to institutions of higher education, national fire service organizations, or national fire safety organizations to establish and operate fire safety research centers. For official program and application guidelines, frequently-asked-questions, the latest awards announcements, and other information, see the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program web page at <http://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>.

The FIRE Act statute provides overall guidelines on how fire grant money will be distributed. Previously, the law directed that volunteer and combination departments receive a proportion of the total grant funding that is not less than the proportion of the U.S. population that those departments protect (34% for combination, 21% for all-volunteer). Reflecting concerns that career fire departments (which are primarily in urban and suburban areas) were not receiving adequate levels of funding, the Fire Grants Authorization Act of 2012 alters the distribution formula, directing that not less than 25% of annual AFG funding go to career fire departments, not less than 25% to volunteer fire departments, not less than 25% to combination and paid-on-call fire departments, and not less than 10% for open competition among career, volunteer, combination, and paid-on-call fire departments. Additionally, P.L. 112-239 raises award caps (up

to \$9 million) and lowers matching requirements for fire departments serving higher population areas.

There is no set geographical formula for the distribution of fire grants—fire departments throughout the nation apply, and award decisions are made by a peer panel based on the merits of the application and the needs of the community. However, the law does require that fire grants should be distributed to a diverse mix of fire departments, with respect to type of department (paid, volunteer, or combination), geographic location, and type of community served (e.g., urban, suburban, or rural).¹⁰ The Fire Act's implementing regulation provides that

In a few cases, to fulfill our obligations under the law to make grants to a variety of departments, we may also make funding decisions using rank order as the preliminary basis, and then analyze the type of fire department (paid, volunteer, or combination fire departments), the size and character of the community it serves (urban, suburban, or rural), and/or the geographic location of the fire department. In these instances where we are making decisions based on geographic location, we will use States as the basic geographic unit.¹¹

Additionally, each fire department that applies is classified as either urban, suburban, or rural. In FY2010, 75.1% of applications were received from rural fire departments, 17.7% from suburban, and 7.2% from urban. This translated into rural departments requesting 66.7% of federal funds, suburban departments requesting 21.5%, and urban departments requesting 11.8%.¹²

Finally, in an effort to maximize the diversity of awardees, the geographic location of an applicant (using states as the basic geographic unit) is used as a deciding factor in cases where applicants have similar qualifications. **Table 4** shows a state-by-state breakdown of fire grant funding for FY2001 through FY2011, while **Table 5** shows a state-by-state breakdown of SAFER grant funding for FY2005 through FY2010. **Table 6** provides an in-depth look at the FY2010 fire grants, showing, for each state, the number of fire grant applications, the total amount requested, the total amount awarded, and the amount of funds awarded as a percentage of funds requested. As **Table 6** shows, the entire pool of fire department applicants received about 13% of the funds they requested in FY2010. This compares to 16% in FY2009, 15% in FY2008, 16% in FY2007, 21% in FY2006, 22% in FY2005, 28% in FY2004, and 34% in FY2003. The downward trend reflects the fact that the number of applications and the amount of federal funds requested have trended upward over the years, while appropriations for the fire grant program have typically declined over the same period.

Issues in the 113th Congress

The 113th Congress will likely consider FY2013 and FY2014 budget appropriations for AFG and SAFER. As is the case with many federal programs, concerns over the federal budget deficit could impact budget levels for AFG and SAFER. At the same time, firefighter assistance budgets will likely receive heightened scrutiny from the fire community, given the local budgetary cutbacks that many fire departments are now facing.

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 2229(b)(9).

¹¹ 44 CFR Part 152.6(c).

¹² Ibid.

The 113th Congress will also likely examine the impact of new grant distribution guidelines mandated by P.L. 112-239, the Fire Grant Authorization Act of 2012. The continuing issue is how effectively grants are being distributed and used to protect the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

Table 4. State-by-State Distribution of AFG Grants, FY2001-FY2011
(millions of dollars)

| | FY01 | FY02 | FY03 | FY04 | FY05 | FY06 | FY07 | FY08 | FY09 | FY10 | FY11 | Total |
|----|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| AL | 3.085 | 12.503 | 23.329 | 25.097 | 20.836 | 22.027 | 19.903 | 23.332 | 19.966 | 14.591 | 18.591 | 203.26 |
| AK | 1.303 | 2.641 | 5.242 | 2.522 | 3.111 | 0.754 | 2.454 | 0.990 | 0.935 | 0.568 | 0.568 | 21.088 |
| AZ | 1.37 | 3.6 | 7.490 | 9.808 | 7.905 | 4.041 | 4.932 | 5.440 | 4.716 | 2.873 | 4.952 | 57.127 |
| AR | 1.337 | 4.635 | 10.675 | 13.680 | 10.402 | 7.699 | 7.799 | 7.107 | 8.174 | 5.111 | 4.253 | 80.872 |
| CA | 5.905 | 18.978 | 30.060 | 29.793 | 25.631 | 17.856 | 18.730 | 26.198 | 23.644 | 21.764 | 35.334 | 253.893 |
| CO | 1.003 | 3.968 | 6.168 | 5.585 | 6.073 | 3.213 | 4.742 | 2.490 | 6.11 | 3.369 | 5.213 | 47.934 |
| CT | 1.828 | 4.675 | 10.841 | 9.991 | 7.287 | 5.479 | 6.630 | 6.925 | 5.231 | 3.166 | 3.67 | 65.723 |
| DE | 0.132 | 0.372 | 1.096 | 1.755 | 1.161 | 1.107 | 0.518 | 0.231 | 1.251 | 0.282 | 0.366 | 8.271 |
| DC | 0 | 0.22 | 0 | 0 | 0.453 | 0 | 0.376 | 1.171 | 0 | 0.368 | 1.38 | 3.968 |
| FL | 2.865 | 10.16 | 16.344 | 15.969 | 17.922 | 6.787 | 8.288 | 6.738 | 12.581 | 12.557 | 16.2 | 126.411 |
| GA | 2.375 | 6.079 | 13.791 | 11.857 | 10.168 | 8.887 | 9.068 | 7.959 | 8.981 | 6.192 | 5.174 | 90.531 |
| HI | 0 | 1.182 | 0.947 | 0.864 | 1.205 | 0.264 | 0.436 | 0.772 | 0.609 | 0.261 | 1.534 | 8.074 |
| ID | 0.916 | 2.744 | 6.001 | 4.828 | 4.684 | 2.712 | 4.297 | 2.687 | 2.883 | 2.361 | 0.439 | 34.552 |
| IL | 2.417 | 13.398 | 28.810 | 27.238 | 25.433 | 21.120 | 21.923 | 21.325 | 25.24 | 14.809 | 12.753 | 214.466 |
| IN | 2.703 | 8.739 | 20.456 | 18.646 | 15.779 | 14.447 | 13.831 | 13.092 | 15.179 | 10.759 | 7.728 | 141.359 |
| IA | 1.301 | 7.284 | 16.087 | 16.430 | 13.119 | 10.064 | 9.298 | 9.877 | 9.695 | 5.818 | 6.629 | 105.602 |
| KS | 1.153 | 5.118 | 10.850 | 10.211 | 7.165 | 4.984 | 5.502 | 3.928 | 6.682 | 3.055 | 3.072 | 61.72 |
| KY | 2.215 | 7.896 | 19.832 | 16.150 | 14.215 | 13.308 | 13.081 | 17.153 | 13.108 | 8.081 | 5.426 | 130.465 |
| LA | 3.344 | 10.084 | 12.248 | 11.101 | 11.630 | 6.935 | 5.473 | 7.033 | 8.073 | 4.414 | 6.337 | 86.672 |
| ME | 1.296 | 4.319 | 10.323 | 10.031 | 6.124 | 6.702 | 5.486 | 4.904 | 3.462 | 1.348 | 2.118 | 56.113 |
| MD | 0.739 | 4.08 | 8.153 | 10.227 | 8.771 | 10.368 | 7.712 | 5.525 | 5.221 | 4.545 | 4.524 | 69.865 |
| MA | 2.301 | 8.386 | 15.715 | 13.958 | 13.529 | 8.957 | 11.644 | 9.532 | 11.957 | 8.083 | 10.679 | 114.741 |
| MI | 2.815 | 8.948 | 17.247 | 20.005 | 15.088 | 15.798 | 15.399 | 15.482 | 18.045 | 9.502 | 16.904 | 155.233 |
| MN | 2.133 | 8.149 | 17.510 | 18.609 | 14.894 | 14.718 | 16.600 | 13.082 | 17.253 | 18.923 | 10.638 | 152.509 |
| MS | 1.763 | 6.755 | 15.679 | 11.329 | 9.856 | 7.885 | 8.052 | 7.761 | 8.436 | 5.66 | 3.694 | 86.87 |
| MO | 3.079 | 10.291 | 19.573 | 17.757 | 14.246 | 13.202 | 10.611 | 11.589 | 12.973 | 9.21 | 7.594 | 130.125 |
| MT | 1.164 | 3.726 | 8.361 | 7.271 | 6.656 | 5.839 | 7.330 | 4.670 | 5.179 | 3.204 | 0.725 | 54.125 |
| NE | 1.034 | 2.392 | 7.820 | 6.577 | 5.116 | 4.399 | 4.443 | 4.324 | 4.341 | 0.441 | 1.378 | 42.265 |
| NV | 0.282 | 1.446 | 3.312 | 1.405 | 1.946 | 0.857 | 1.530 | 0.687 | 0.855 | 1.437 | 0.564 | 14.321 |
| NH | 0.594 | 1.887 | 4.584 | 5.694 | 4.563 | 3.307 | 3.219 | 2.723 | 2.834 | 1.496 | 1.69 | 32.591 |
| NJ | 2.596 | 6.339 | 19.982 | 16.488 | 14.691 | 12.386 | 13.266 | 13.201 | 15.502 | 9.687 | 10.402 | 134.54 |
| NM | 1.455 | 3.463 | 5.048 | 3.653 | 2.259 | 1.461 | 1.367 | 1.101 | 1.605 | 1.632 | 2.122 | 25.166 |
| NY | 3.978 | 14.728 | 34.320 | 35.030 | 36.009 | 33.804 | 22.664 | 30.204 | 23.235 | 13.367 | 10.253 | 257.592 |
| NC | 1.949 | 10.239 | 22.864 | 22.360 | 19.315 | 18.309 | 20.031 | 18.460 | 20.881 | 13.137 | 13.864 | 181.409 |

Assistance to Firefighters Program: Distribution of Fire Grant Funding

| | FY01 | FY02 | FY03 | FY04 | FY05 | FY06 | FY07 | FY08 | FY09 | FY10 | FY11 | Total |
|----|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| ND | 0.546 | 2.613 | 5.105 | 3.391 | 2.673 | 2.459 | 3.100 | 3.297 | 2.527 | 1.594 | 0.71 | 28.015 |
| OH | 2.731 | 13.742 | 26.997 | 29.107 | 27.344 | 25.380 | 26.433 | 26.938 | 33.164 | 20.168 | 23.281 | 255.285 |
| OK | 1.864 | 4.939 | 10.540 | 10.393 | 8.757 | 10.852 | 7.220 | 6.875 | 7.239 | 3.527 | 3.187 | 75.393 |
| OR | 1.596 | 4.892 | 9.896 | 10.122 | 10.014 | 9.288 | 5.943 | 8.438 | 5.986 | 6.332 | 5.59 | 78.097 |
| PA | 2.89 | 16.97 | 45.179 | 47.898 | 39.233 | 41.259 | 43.610 | 41.041 | 37.231 | 19.623 | 26.227 | 361.161 |
| RI | 0.407 | 1.507 | 2.327 | 1.917 | 2.129 | 2.025 | 0.855 | 1.395 | 2.46 | 1.533 | 2.314 | 18.869 |
| SC | 1.554 | 5.257 | 11.832 | 14.150 | 10.544 | 8.028 | 10.470 | 11.040 | 11.227 | 8.684 | 4.948 | 97.734 |
| SD | 0.904 | 3.142 | 5.602 | 4.693 | 3.570 | 2.989 | 2.474 | 2.069 | 2.527 | 0.753 | 1.135 | 29.858 |
| TN | 2.46 | 11.509 | 19.306 | 18.686 | 15.047 | 11.209 | 12.955 | 16.074 | 13.311 | 11.259 | 6.268 | 138.084 |
| TX | 3.697 | 15.644 | 29.264 | 30.118 | 23.480 | 18.035 | 17.691 | 20.458 | 19.469 | 9.941 | 11.031 | 198.828 |
| UT | 0.9 | 2.754 | 4.628 | 3.880 | 2.188 | 2.213 | 3.378 | 0.934 | 2.295 | 2.985 | 0.883 | 27.038 |
| VT | 0.451 | 1.971 | 5.163 | 4.747 | 2.071 | 1.456 | 1.820 | 1.046 | 1.974 | 0.689 | 0.498 | 21.886 |
| VA | 2.066 | 8.79 | 15.816 | 16.668 | 14.357 | 8.317 | 10.403 | 8.370 | 6.405 | 5.991 | 3.5 | 100.683 |
| WA | 1.535 | 7.544 | 18.808 | 19.565 | 15.763 | 16.150 | 12.951 | 13.050 | 10.064 | 7.961 | 7.341 | 130.732 |
| WV | 1.067 | 3.966 | 9.942 | 9.133 | 10.143 | 5.838 | 7.164 | 7.238 | 5.331 | 5.074 | 2.173 | 67.069 |
| WI | 2.077 | 7.518 | 18.234 | 19.668 | 17.685 | 13.994 | 19.439 | 15.216 | 15.17 | 9.569 | 8.635 | 147.205 |
| WY | 1.09 | 1.612 | 3.507 | 1.811 | 2.032 | 1.197 | 1.645 | 1.023 | 1.427 | 0.086 | 0.488 | 15.918 |
| PR | 0.657 | 0.382 | 1.643 | 1.140 | 1.104 | 0.528 | 0.019 | 0.074 | 1.154 | 0 | 0.876 | 7.577 |
| MP | 0.145 | 0.225 | 0 | 0 | 0.220 | 0.172 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GU | 0 | 0.016 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.287 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| AS | 0.164 | 0 | 0 | 0.284 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| VI | 0.741 | 0 | 0.544 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.233 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 91.97 | 334.41 | 695.09 | 679.29 | 585.59 | 491.35 | 494.20 | 492.50 | 503.79 | 337.84 | 345.85 | 5051.9 |

Source: Department of Homeland Security.

**Table 5. State-by-State Distribution of SAFER Grants,
FY2005-FY2010**
(millions of dollars)

| | FY2005 | FY2006 | FY2007 | FY2008 | FY2009 | FY2010 | Total |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Alabama | 1.611 | 6.215 | 4.236 | 7.314 | 4.288 | 8.531 | 32.195 |
| Alaska | 1.051 | 0.205 | 0.418 | 1.438 | 0.328 | 6.072 | 9.512 |
| Arizona | 1.560 | 3.559 | 4.428 | 6.613 | 6.768 | 10.357 | 33.285 |
| Arkansas | 0.394 | 1.820 | 0.377 | 3.834 | 0.976 | 2.206 | 9.607 |
| California | 5.221 | 5.212 | 4.259 | 4.212 | 31.501 | 63.13 | 113.535 |
| Colorado | 1.584 | 3.479 | 1.730 | 2.02 | 0.955 | 3.384 | 13.152 |
| Connecticut | 0.130 | 0.191 | 0.856 | 3.92 | 2.214 | 1.312 | 8.623 |
| Delaware | 0 | 0.135 | 0 | 0.398 | 0 | 1.723 | 2.256 |
| District of Columbia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Florida | 6.576 | 9.329 | 6.217 | 17.185 | 24.105 | 17.721 | 81.133 |
| Georgia | 5.354 | 2.085 | 2.842 | 17.438 | 4.844 | 10.384 | 42.947 |
| Hawaii | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.626 | 0 | 0.1 | 1.726 |
| Idaho | 0.063 | 0.621 | 0.626 | 0.774 | 1.336 | 2.897 | 6.317 |
| Illinois | 1.340 | 4.463 | 9.933 | 5.85 | 2.496 | 10.848 | 34.93 |
| Indiana | 0 | 0.099 | 2.687 | 4.577 | 8.295 | 9.931 | 25.589 |
| Iowa | 0.169 | 0.144 | 0.980 | 1.288 | 1.045 | 0.081 | 3.707 |
| Kansas | 0.667 | 0.045 | 1.029 | 1.872 | 2.806 | 2.285 | 8.704 |
| Kentucky | 0.152 | 2.890 | 0.429 | 2.466 | 0.338 | 0.893 | 7.168 |
| Louisiana | 3.430 | 3.078 | 4.728 | 8.62 | 10.515 | 0.182 | 30.553 |
| Maine | 0.081 | 0 | 0.316 | 0.951 | 0.739 | 1.047 | 3.134 |
| Maryland | 0.096 | 1.862 | 1.526 | 3.171 | 4.429 | 2.145 | 13.229 |
| Massachusetts | 1.300 | 2.079 | 4.372 | 2.690 | 18.385 | 34.422 | 63.248 |
| Michigan | 1.759 | 0.592 | 0 | 0.628 | 13.286 | 22.493 | 38.758 |
| Minnesota | 0.300 | 1.089 | 0.375 | 3.246 | 1.256 | 0.789 | 7.055 |
| Mississippi | 0.756 | 0.594 | 0.115 | 1.608 | 0 | 1.209 | 4.282 |
| Missouri | 1.467 | 3.547 | 4.551 | 2.381 | 1.474 | 5.618 | 19.038 |
| Montana | 0.034 | 0.255 | 2.635 | 2.955 | 0.458 | 0.973 | 7.31 |
| Nebraska | 0 | 0.873 | 0.632 | 1.951 | 0.802 | 0.493 | 4.751 |
| Nevada | 1.500 | 1.714 | 0.632 | 0.086 | 0.577 | 2.459 | 6.968 |
| New Hampshire | 0.400 | 1.035 | 1.528 | 0.225 | 0 | 0.353 | 3.541 |
| New Jersey | 6.374 | 3.971 | 2.953 | 4.389 | 0.556 | 56.648 | 74.891 |
| New Mexico | 0 | 3.123 | 1.309 | 0.108 | 0.499 | 1.854 | 6.893 |
| New York | 1.540 | 2.991 | 2.845 | 4.412 | 8.227 | 18.239 | 38.254 |
| North Carolina | 2.155 | 5.533 | 5.371 | 18.183 | 2.256 | 6.375 | 39.873 |

Assistance to Firefighters Program: Distribution of Fire Grant Funding

| | FY2005 | FY2006 | FY2007 | FY2008 | FY2009 | FY2010 | Total |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| North Dakota | 0 | 0.609 | 0 | 1.518 | 1.517 | 2.139 | 5.783 |
| Ohio | 1.319 | 1.881 | 2.255 | 3.737 | 29.606 | 21.04 | 59.838 |
| Oklahoma | 0.147 | 0.699 | 0.531 | 2.782 | 0 | 9.127 | 13.286 |
| Oregon | 1.710 | 2.141 | 2.649 | 2.071 | 0.677 | 6.166 | 15.414 |
| Pennsylvania | 1.244 | 1.475 | 2.633 | 3.515 | 1.176 | 7.926 | 17.969 |
| Rhode Island | 0.400 | 0 | 0.105 | 0 | 1.561 | 4.249 | 6.315 |
| South Carolina | 0.456 | 0.863 | 3.218 | 8.158 | 2.41 | 2.064 | 17.169 |
| South Dakota | 0.063 | 0.311 | 0.211 | 0.552 | 0 | 0.648 | 1.785 |
| Tennessee | 2.700 | 2.719 | 3.683 | 1.856 | 1.148 | 7.374 | 19.48 |
| Texas | 0.951 | 10.961 | 8.779 | 19.06 | 3.158 | 12.65 | 55.559 |
| Utah | 0.900 | 3.312 | 2.098 | 3.955 | 1.824 | 4.583 | 16.672 |
| Vermont | 0 | 0.621 | 0.632 | 0 | 0.119 | 0 | 1.372 |
| Virginia | 2.091 | 3.554 | 0.782 | 1.849 | 4.891 | 8.995 | 22.162 |
| Washington | 2.298 | 2.897 | 7.340 | 9.476 | 2.847 | 13.779 | 38.637 |
| West Virginia | 0 | 0.187 | 0.681 | 0.16 | 0.287 | 0.398 | 1.713 |
| Wisconsin | 0 | 0.072 | 1.223 | 4.502 | 0 | 0.12 | 5.917 |
| Wyoming | 0 | 0 | 0.316 | 2.329 | 0.263 | 0.997 | 3.905 |
| Puerto Rico | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northern Mariana Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.404 | 1.404 |
| Marshall Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Guam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| American Samoa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Virgin Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Republic of Palau | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 61.343 | 105.13 | 112.071 | 203.949 | 207.238 | 410.813 | 1100.544 |

Source: Department of Homeland Security.

Table 6. Requests and Awards for AFG Funding, FY2010

| State | Number of applications | Federal funds requested (\$millions) | Federal funds awarded (\$millions) | Funds awarded as a % of funds requested |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Alabama | 674 | 96.316 | 14.591 | 15.15% |
| Alaska | 45 | 9.954 | 0.568 | 5.71% |
| Arizona | 126 | 27.556 | 2.873 | 10.43% |
| Arkansas | 300 | 44.642 | 5.111 | 11.45% |
| California | 455 | 105.692 | 21.764 | 20.59% |
| Colorado | 162 | 30.098 | 3.369 | 11.19% |
| Connecticut | 201 | 37.739 | 3.166 | 8.39% |
| Delaware | 21 | 3.569 | 0.282 | 7.90% |
| District of Columbia | 2 | 0.447 | 0.368 | 82.33% |
| Florida | 253 | 55.369 | 12.557 | 22.68% |
| Georgia | 298 | 49.05 | 6.192 | 12.62% |
| Hawaii | 2 | 0.534 | 0.261 | 48.88% |
| Idaho | 94 | 14.085 | 2.361 | 16.76% |
| Illinois | 679 | 116.024 | 14.809 | 12.76% |
| Indiana | 386 | 58.256 | 10.759 | 18.47% |
| Iowa | 369 | 45.45 | 5.818 | 12.80% |
| Kansas | 203 | 27.591 | 3.055 | 11.07% |
| Kentucky | 451 | 72.725 | 8.081 | 11.11% |
| Louisiana | 197 | 33.435 | 4.414 | 13.20% |
| Maine | 192 | 24.753 | 1.348 | 5.45% |
| Maryland | 162 | 28.625 | 4.545 | 15.88% |
| Massachusetts | 301 | 57.184 | 8.083 | 14.14% |
| Michigan | 551 | 84.256 | 9.502 | 11.28% |
| Minnesota | 419 | 69.131 | 18.923 | 27.37% |
| Mississippi | 335 | 44.81 | 5.66 | 12.63% |
| Missouri | 428 | 53.502 | 9.21 | 17.21% |
| Montana | 141 | 21.442 | 3.204 | 14.94% |
| Nebraska | 133 | 17.792 | 0.441 | 2.48% |
| Nevada | 25 | 5.142 | 1.437 | 27.95% |
| New Hampshire | 110 | 16.886 | 1.496 | 8.86% |
| New Jersey | 484 | 87.821 | 9.687 | 11.03% |
| New Mexico | 63 | 11.924 | 1.632 | 13.69% |
| New York | 975 | 136.33 | 13.367 | 9.80% |
| North Carolina | 645 | 102.416 | 13.137 | 12.83% |
| North Dakota | 91 | 13.401 | 1.594 | 11.89% |

| State | Number of applications | Federal funds requested (\$millions) | Federal funds awarded (\$millions) | Funds awarded as a % of funds requested |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Ohio | 950 | 156.989 | 20.168 | 12.85% |
| Oklahoma | 241 | 31.97 | 3.527 | 11.03% |
| Oregon | 171 | 30.766 | 6.332 | 20.58% |
| Pennsylvania | 1641 | 229.005 | 19.623 | 8.57% |
| Rhode Island | 57 | 14.264 | 1.533 | 10.75% |
| South Carolina | 378 | 50.393 | 8.684 | 17.23% |
| South Dakota | 117 | 16.182 | 0.753 | 4.65% |
| Tennessee | 517 | 78.254 | 11.259 | 14.39% |
| Texas | 593 | 94.696 | 9.941 | 10.50% |
| Utah | 93 | 16.076 | 2.985 | 18.57% |
| Vermont | 84 | 11.737 | 0.689 | 5.87% |
| Virginia | 237 | 43.841 | 5.991 | 13.67% |
| Washington | 275 | 46.474 | 7.961 | 17.13% |
| West Virginia | 273 | 44.61 | 5.074 | 11.37% |
| Wisconsin | 584 | 80.314 | 9.569 | 11.91% |
| Wyoming | 35 | 3.623 | 0.086 | 2.37% |
| Puerto Rico | 8 | 1.499 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Northern Marianas | 1 | 0.56 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Virgin Islands | 2 | 0.355 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Guam | 1 | 0.224 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Total | 16,231 | 2555.779 | 337.840 | 13.22% |

Source: Department of Homeland Security.

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