

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Volunteer Fire Assistance

2015 Phase II Grant Program

Introduction

The **Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA)** program is funded through the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS). The objective of the VFA program is to improve the capacity and capability of rural and volunteer fire protection districts that protect rural communities and play a substantial cooperative role in the suppression of wildland fires within or near federally managed lands.

The Phase II Grant Program is available to all Washington State fire districts/fire departments that meet the eligibility requirements listed below.

Available Funding

- The maximum grant award per fire district/fire department is **\$12,000**.
- Fire districts/fire departments may only submit one application. However, the application may include up to two project proposals. The total funding requested for applications proposing two projects cannot exceed the maximum \$12,000 grant amount. Projects will be considered individually for funding.
- **Match requirement** for all eligible projects within the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program is 50% of project cost (one dollar of eligible match for each grant dollar expended).

Application Submittal

- Applications may be submitted from September 15, 2014 through October 31, 2014. Applications submitted prior to September 15, 2014 or received after 5:00 PM on October 31, 2014 will not be considered for funding.
- Applications are available on the DNR [Fire District Assistance](#) webpage.
- Applications must be received by DNR no later than 5:00 PM on October 31, 2014
- Applications must be filled out completely, signed by an authorized representative, and submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Email: fepp_assist@dnr.wa.gov (attach a scanned copy of signed application)
 - Mail: Resource Protection Division
ATTN: 2015 Phase II Grant Applications
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504
 - Hand Delivery to the address above.

Grant Award and Term

- Grant funding will be awarded to successful applicants by February 15, 2015.
- Projects must be completed and all reimbursement requests received by DNR no later than March 15, 2016.
- Extensions to the grant term are not allowed.

Eligibility

Fire District/Fire Department Eligibility

Fire districts/fire departments that meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for Phase II grants:

- Respond to wildland fire on private, state, or federal lands, and
- Provide service to:
 - a rural area or a rural community with a population of 10,000 or less, or
 - a community with a population greater than 10,000 that includes service to a rural community of 10,000 or less (funding must be used to benefit the rural community), and
- Have one of the following agreements currently in place with DNR:
 - Forest Land Response Agreement & Federal Grant Agreement (FLRA), or
 - Fire District Assistance Agreement that includes “Attachment A - Assistance Grants” (FDA)

Project Eligibility

The following projects are eligible:

- **Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) generator replacement** – replacing FEPP generators with new generators or refurbishing generators acquired under the Firefighter Property Program.
- **Firefighter Property Acquisition/Refurbishment** – Includes funding for transport and refurbishment of vehicles obtained through the Firefighter Property Program to a wildland engine or tender.
- **Fire Equipment** – This category includes equipment suitable for wildland fire use. Includes portable pumps, slip in pump packages, water tanks (vehicle and porta tanks), and chainsaws. All hand tools, hose, hose fittings and related equipment **not available** during Phase 1, communication systems, radios (vehicle and handheld), and pagers.
- **Communications** – Includes the development of single or multi district communications systems, radios, vehicle, hand held, base stations, and repeater.
- **Training** – Includes the development and implementation of programs designed for training in structural, grass or wildland fire suppression, including instructors, facility rental and materials.
- **Fire Prevention** – Includes the development and implementation of fire prevention education programs, including Firewise workshops or prevention planning, including GIS planning projects.
- **Dry Hydrant** – Includes planning, construction and operational use of a dry hydrant system.

Ineligible Projects

The following are not eligible for funding:

- Major expenditures such as building construction or new fire apparatus
- Land acquisition or building repairs
- Rural Emergency Medical Service programs
- Water line construction and hydrants
- Structural fire engines, ladder trucks, and structure PPE
- Wellness programs

Prioritization

DNR will consider the following when prioritizing grant applications for funding:

- Fire district/fire department protection includes communities within “high” and “moderate” risk areas identified in the Statewide Forest Action Plan (see map)
- Mutual aid response agreements with DNR or federal agencies
- Past Phase II grant awards
- Project type
- Volunteer firefighter membership
- Fire district/fire department fire response budget
- Wildland fire response call volume

Federal Grant Equipment Purchases

Fire districts/fire departments are awarded Volunteer Fire Assistance funding under the terms and conditions of their current DNR agreement. Fire districts/fire departments receiving Volunteer Fire Assistance funding are required to maintain equipment accountability records for equipment items purchased over \$5,000 in value. Such items must be identified as property acquired under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act and Federal approval secured prior to future disposition. Fire districts/fire departments must comply with Federal regulations relating to equipment and supplies acquired by state and local governments ([7CFR 3016.32: Equipment](#)).

Other Requirements

- **Reimbursable grant** – the fire district/fire department must apply to DNR for reimbursement of eligible costs. Requests for reimbursement must be submitted on DNR approved forms and include supporting documentation providing evidence of incurred costs, fire district/fire department payment of costs and required match contribution. Only costs incurred after grant award are eligible for reimbursement.
- **Eligible match** may be actual cash, donated materials or in-kind labor. All matching funds require documentation and required match must be included with any grant reimbursement request. Only match incurred as part of the project and after September 1, 2014 are eligible. In-kind labor documentation must include laborer's name, dates and hours of work, and type of work performed.
- **In-kind labor rate** is \$16 per hour.
- **Project modifications** must have prior written approval by DNR, and in no case will DNR approve additional funding to complete the project.
- **Unused grant funds** cannot be transferred to other non-funded projects, agencies, or departments.