

derived from modifying fire stations than would be realized by modifying fire-training facilities or other fire-related facilities. Facilities that would be open for broad usage and have a high occupancy capacity would receive a higher competitive rating than facilities that have limited use and/or low occupancy capacity. The frequency of use would also have a bearing on the benefits to be derived from grant funds. The frequency and duration of a facility's occupancy have a direct relationship to the benefits to be realized from funding in this activity. As such, facilities that are occupied or otherwise in use 24-hours-per-day/seven-days-a-week would receive a higher competitive rating than facilities used on a part-time or irregular basis.

(2) *Fire Prevention Program.* We believe that the public as a whole will receive the greatest benefit by creating new fire prevention programs. Therefore, our priority is to target these funds to fire departments that do not have an existing fire prevention program as opposed to those departments that already have such a program. Also, we believe the public will benefit greatly from establishing fire prevention programs that will continue beyond the grant year as opposed to limited efforts. Therefore, we will give a higher competitive rating to programs that will be self-sustaining after the grant period.

Because of the benefits to be attained, we will give a higher competitive rating to programs that target one or more of USFA's identified high-risk populations

(i.e., children under fourteen years of age, seniors over sixty-five and firefighters), and programs whose impact is/will be periodically evaluated. We believe that the purchase or development and/or implementation of public education programs provides the highest benefits to a community therefore, applications that propose this type of project will receive the highest competitive rating. Programs that develop and enforce fire codes and standards, and arson prevention and detection programs typically provide long-term effect on fire prevention, therefore, they will receive a high competitive rating. We also believe programs that purchase and install residential and public detection and suppression systems provide significant benefits.

Programs that are limited to the purchase of public information materials and presentation aids and equipment achieve the least benefit; therefore, these types of activities will receive a lower competitive rating.

(3) *Emergency Medical Services Program.* Our overall objective in this program is to help fire departments start or expand EMS service delivery by providing training and equipment necessary to achieve their desired level of capacity. Because of the inherent benefits, the primary goal of this program is to train and equip all firefighters to the basic EMS certification level (i.e., first responder and EMT) and work toward an EMT-B level of capacity before assisting

departments with established EMS programs in upgrading existing services.

In this program area, we will give the highest competitive rating to fire departments that are planning on acquiring a basic life-support level of service over upgraded or expanded services. We believe that enhancing or expanding an existing service that currently meets basic life-support to an intermediate life-support system would a higher benefit than enhancing existing services to the paramedic level.

Higher priority will be given to departments with a high call volume relative to departments of similar characteristic (i.e., urban, suburban, or rural). Also, departments that strive to comply with a State, Federal, or national standard will be afforded a slightly higher competitive standing.

(1) *Firefighting Vehicle Program.* In recognition of the inherent differences between urban, suburban, and rural firefighting conventions, we have developed different priorities in the vehicle acquisition program for departments that service these different types of communities. The following chart delineates our priorities in this program area for each type of community. Due to the competitive nature of this program and the imposed limits of funding available for this program, it is unlikely that we would fund many vehicles that are not listed as a priority-one or a priority-two this year.

#### VEHICLE ACQUISITION PROGRAM PRIORITIES

	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Priority One .....	Pumper Quint Rescue-pumper Aerial Rescue HAZMAT Light/Air Rehab	Pumper Quint Rescue-pumper  Brush Rescue Aerial HAZMAT Light/Air Tanker Pumper-tanker Rehab Command	Pumper. Tanker. Brush. Rescue-pumper. Pumper-tanker. Rescue. Light/Air. Quint.
Priority Two .....	ARFF Foam Brush Command Fire Boat Tanker Pumper-tanker Watercraft Ambulance	ARFF Foam Watercraft Fire Boat Ambulance	HAZMAT. Rehab. Command.  ARFF. Foam. Aerials. Watercraft. Fire Boat. Ambulance.
Priority Three .....			
Priority Four .....			

Regardless of the type of community served, we believe that more benefit will be realized by funding fire departments

that own few or no firefighting apparatus than by providing funding to a department with numerous vehicles.

Therefore, we will give a higher competitive rating in the apparatus category to fire departments that have