

can also call 1-800-333-0505 to apply. Applications that do not include a DUNS number are incomplete and cannot be considered for award. If applying using the online system, this field will be a mandatory entry and your application cannot be completed without it. If applying on paper, use the box entitled "Federal Identifier" on the SF 424, Application for Federal Assistance, to enter the DUNS number.

Completed applications must be received online or postmarked by 5 p.m. EST November 14, 2003. Paper applications are required to include a narrative addressing items D.1-8 above, and all of the following FEMA forms: 20-16 Assurances and Certifications, 20-20 Budget Information-Nonconstruction Programs, and SF 424 Request for Federal Assistance. These forms are available online at www.fema.gov/ofm/grants2.shtm or can be requested by calling 1-866-274-0960. Failure to submit all of the required forms will result in a disqualification of the paper application. The paper application should be mailed to AFG Program Office, 500 C Street, SW., Room 330, Washington, DC 20472. If an online application is submitted, applicants should not submit a supplemental paper application.

E. Eligible Activities

Fire prevention and safety projects are the only eligible activities under the Program. Installation of sprinkler systems and fire alarm systems into existing structures shall be eligible for funding. Renovations to an existing facility are allowable only if the costs are not construction costs as defined in 44 CFR 152.2. This section was amended by the publication of a final rule on March 14, 2003 at 68 FR 12544. In order to be eligible, renovations must be essential to the successful completion of the grant scope of work. Construction projects are not eligible under the program. Changes or renovations to an existing structure that do not change the footprint or profile of the structure but exceed either \$10,000 or 50 percent of the value of the structure, are also considered construction for the purposes of this grant program.

The following list includes examples of eligible initiatives under this program:

1. Projects that focus on distributing and installing smoke alarms and checking to ensure smoke alarms are operational.
2. Projects that focus on planning and practicing escape routes, or conducting home fire safety walkthroughs;

3. Fire prevention projects targeting high-risk audiences, including those:

- a. Enhancing national, State, or local efforts to reduce fires and burn injuries affecting children under 14 or seniors over 65;
- b. Targeting geographical areas with a higher incidence of fire-related deaths and injuries;
- c. Implementing projects that mitigate risk in urban cities or high-risk groups to include addressing culturally-sensitive materials or socio-economic challenges;
4. Projects that affect the entire community such as educating the public about residential sprinklers, promoting residential sprinklers, and demonstrating working models of residential sprinklers;

5. Projects that promote the adoption or awareness of building codes and enforcement, improve engineering or enact fire-related ordinances for new construction;

6. Projects that develop and implement national prevention initiatives;

7. Local or regional projects that address training personnel in the area of public education, code enforcement, and arson prevention.

Projects that address additional fire prevention and safety initiatives will be considered.

F. Evaluation Criteria

FEMA will give priority to projects that focus on the prevention of injury to children from fire. Additionally, successful projects will have a high potential for achieving the overall goals of USFA, listed below. It is unlikely that projects that do not address these goals will be funded.

USFA Goals:

- To reduce the overall loss of life from fire by three percent per year.
- To establish comprehensive multi-hazard risk reduction plans led by or including the local fire service in 2,500 communities.
- To create the ability for communities to respond appropriately to emergent issues in a timely manner.

FEMA will use the below criteria in making funding decisions. Applications that closely meet all of the listed evaluation criteria will be more likely to receive favorable consideration. Federal and non-Federal experts will assist with the preliminary review of proposals and analysis as part of the funding decisions. Regardless of the proposed project, all applications will be evaluated on the degree to which they meet the criteria below. This list is not in order of priority.

- Use of an innovative project to address an identified risk or enhance traditional methodologies;
- Incorporation of partnerships that are established with public or private groups/agencies whose mission serves the population identified by the project;
- Targeting of geographical areas with a higher incidence of fire-related deaths and injuries;
- Presentation of a high benefit for the cost incurred and maximizing the level of funding that goes directly into the delivery of the project; *i.e.*, projects that include little or no overhead and administrative costs;
- Inclusion of sound reasoning regarding the determination of the target audience, measurable goals and project evaluation;
- Proposing a project that will be sustained beyond the grant performance period and has a greater potential for long-term benefits; and
- Illustration that the applicant has a successful record for timely project completion and performance in similar projects.

G. Funding Limitations

Grant recipients or parties entering into cooperative agreements through the program may receive no more than \$750,000 in any Federal fiscal year. Fire Departments that receive funding under the Assistance to Firefighters—competitive grant must consider this limitation, because the combined total for the grants is capped at \$750,000.

H. Contracts

FEMA may, in its discretion, enter into contracts for fire prevention activities in order to achieve overall program goals. These contracts may not be subject to the limitations and requirements set forth in this notice.

Dated: October 14, 2003.

R. David Paulison,

*Director of the Preparedness Division,
Emergency Preparedness and Response,
Department of Homeland Security.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Loan Guaranty, Insurance and Interest Subsidy, 25 CFR Part 103

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of submission of information collection to the Office of Management and Budget.