

Application Period Extended, Cost Share Waived and Other Changes for FY19 SAFER Grants

In recognition of the economic hardships facing local jurisdictions and fire departments across the country as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad F. Wolf has waived the cost share, position cost limit, supplanting, and minimum budget requirements for Fiscal Year 2019 Staffing for Adequate Fire Emergency and Response (SAFER) Grant applicants. **In addition, the application period is being extended to May 27, 2020 at 5 p.m. ET.**

Please Note: Funds under the FY19 SAFER Hiring of Firefighters Activity must be used to hire new, additional firefighters, and the costs to hire those firefighters must be at the usual annual costs of a first-year (i.e., entry-level) firefighter. This requirement has **not** been waived.

Additionally, the waiver of the requirements identified above does **not** apply to the FY 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) or to the FY 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant – COVID-19 Supplemental Program (AFG-S).

In consideration of the economic impact of the pandemic, Acting Secretary Wolf has also authorized waivers for certain provisions of the FY 2020 SAFER Grant Program. DHS/FEMA will provide more details on the FY 2020 changes soon.

Applicants no longer need to request an economic hardship waiver within the FY 2019 online application. If you have already submitted your FY 2019 application, no further action is needed at this time. The waiver of these provisions and the adjustments to the requested amount will be handled by the SAFER Program Office during their technical review of applications.

If you have not yet submitted your application, please note that the applications will continue to show the cost share/position cost limit. However, as stated above, there is nothing additional that applicants need to do regarding these provisions. The adjustment will be made by the SAFER Program Office.

The FEMA Grant Outcomes (GO) system 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. Applications received by FEMA GO after the extended application submission deadline will be deemed as late and typically will not be considered for funding.

DHS/FEMA will not review applications that are received after the extended deadline or consider them for funding except in cases where a technical problem outside of the applicant's control prevented submission of the application by the deadline.



FEMA

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs, Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Division:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov
- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
- Tribal Affairs (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov
- Private Sector Engagement at (202) 646-3444 or at nbeoc@max.gov

Follow Us

Follow FEMA on social media at: [FEMA online](#), on Twitter [@FEMA](#) or [@FEMAEspanol](#), on [FEMA Facebook page](#) or [FEMA Espanol page](#) and at FEMA [FEMA YouTube channel](#). Also, follow Administrator Pete Gaynor on Twitter [@FEMA_Pete](#).



FEMA

**Grant Programs Directorate Information Bulletin
No. 450
May 14, 2020**

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Eligible FY 2019 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Applicants

FROM: Bridget Bean
Assistant Administrator
Grant Programs Directorate

SUBJECT: **Modifications to the Fiscal Year 2019 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity**

I. Purpose

This Information Bulletin (IB) modifies the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program application and submission requirements contained in the FY 2019 SAFER Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) released on April 7, 2020. FEMA acknowledges that fire departments across the nation are facing significantly increased call volumes due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency, which is straining municipal budgets and existing first responder personnel across the country. In response, FEMA is waiving the cost share, position cost limit, supplanting, and minimum budget requirements for the FY 2019 SAFER Grant Program, as well as extending the application deadline until May 27, 2020 at 5 p.m. ET.

Waiving the above requirements will allow economically impacted fire departments, many of which have not been able to maintain funding at the statutorily required levels, to apply for and receive FY 2019 SAFER funding. The extension of the application deadline will provide applicants additional time to submit applications that account for the waived requirements.

Applicants no longer need to request an economic hardship waiver within the online application. No further action is needed by applicants at this time. The waiver of these provisions and the adjustments to the requested amount will be handled by the SAFER Program Office during their technical review of the applications.

II. Applicability

This IB applies to FY 2019 SAFER applicants.

III. Guidance

- A. The terms of the original FY 2019 SAFER NOFO released on April 7, 2020 required recipients under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity to contribute non-federal funds subject to a position cost limit (salary cap) and a cost share, as discussed on pages 6-8 of the FY 2019 SAFER NOFO, which can be found on the FEMA [website](#). As directed by this Information Bulletin, these requirements are waived for the FY 2019 SAFER program. Note that recipients under the FY 2019 SAFER Hiring of Firefighters Activity must use SAFER funds to hire new, additional firefighters and the costs to hire those firefighters are limited to the usual annual costs of a first-year (i.e., entry-level) firefighter.
- B. The terms of the original FY 2019 SAFER NOFO required recipients of SAFER grants to meet a minimum budget requirement, as discussed on page 5 of the FY 2019 SAFER NOFO, and required that recipients may not use SAFER funds to supplant or replace funds that would otherwise be available from state or local sources or the Bureau of Indian Affairs, as defined on page 33 of the FY 2019 SAFER NOFO. As directed by this Information Bulletin, these requirements are waived for the FY 2019 SAFER program.
- C. The application submission deadline for the FY 2019 SAFER NOFO is extended to May 27, 2020.

IV. Questions

Any questions regarding this IB may be directed to your SAFER Preparedness Officer (PO) or the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Help Desk at firegrants@fema.dhs.gov or (866) 275-0950, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. ET.