

FASNY SAFER GRANT 2010

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

In May, 2011 the Fireman's Association of the State of New York (FASNY) was awarded a \$4.2 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER) to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. This FAQ provides some basic information on the grant award.

What is FASNY's ultimate goal for this recruitment and retention effort?

Over the next four (4) years, the activities funded by this grant will work to recruit 15,000 new volunteer firefighters and retain as many current ones as possible. This will put our ranks above the 100,000 mark and result in improved fire and emergency service protection across the State.

What is the amount of the grant award and how long does FASNY have to utilize it?

The amount of the award is \$4,270,570 and the grant period runs from 2011 to 2015.

Are there any major restrictions on the use of these funds?

All NYS volunteer fire departments will be able to participate in the activities covered under this grant award. The primary restriction placed on these funds is that they cannot be used to duplicate services or activities supported by other in-state SAFER grants. The activities supported by these funds must be in accordance with the grant application submitted by FASNY. In compliance with federal law, significant accounting and reporting requirements will be adhered to.

How will this grant be implemented?

FASNY staff will be dedicated to develop, administer and coordinate the required activities funded by this grant. These activities will be directed and supported at the grassroots level with each department taking a hands-on role in their local implementation. FASNY leadership and the Recruitment and Retention Committee will oversee all efforts undertaken during the grant performance period ending in August, 2015.

What are the primary initiatives that will be supported by this SAFER Grant?

The primary use of these funds will be to develop resources and activities for use by individual departments to retain and recruit volunteer firefighters. FASNY will implement a significant mass media campaign that will raise public awareness and increase the likelihood of individual department success. A large portion of the SAFER Grant will be utilized to fund a tuition reimbursement program for eligible volunteer firefighters to attend their local community college.

Who will be eligible for the tuition reimbursement program?

All volunteer firefighters who do not already hold a college degree will be able to participate.

How will the tuition reimbursement program work?

The program will be available to any full or part time student-volunteer for any course taken at one of New York's community colleges. As evidenced by other tuition assistance efforts in NYS, most student-volunteers attending community colleges live in the surrounding geographic area and volunteer with the department that serves their community.

What obligations will an individual have under this program?

In exchange for receiving tuition reimbursement, a student-volunteer will be required to achieve satisfactory grades and maintain membership in good standing as set forth by their local fire department. The amount of tuition reimbursement will be based on a sliding scale, from a minimum "C" to full reimbursement for achieving an "A". In addition, each student-volunteer will incur a service obligation based upon the total number of credits earned under the program. The service obligation will also be based on a sliding scale with a maximum obligation of five (5) years to a volunteer fire department located in New York State. If a student-volunteer cannot meet this service obligation they will be required to pay back funds received under this program on a prorated basis.

How can I find out more about this SAFER Grant and the programs and activities it will support?

For more information you can go to www.fasny.com or call the FASNY office at (800) 232-7692.