



Volunteer Fire Company, Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program

On behalf of Governor Corbett, State Fire Commissioner Ed Mann invites volunteer fire companies and volunteer ambulance services throughout Pennsylvania to submit an application for the Fiscal Year 2011 Volunteer Fire Company, Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program (VFCVASGP).

The on-line application period will begin during the first week of September and will remain open for 45 days. Exact dates and times will be listed on our web site closer to the grant opening.

Volunteer fire companies and volunteer ambulance services may apply for a grant in up to two of the four eligible program categories. The Volunteer Fire Company Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program guidelines will be available for download on the OSFC webpage at www.osfc.state.pa.us. Volunteer fire companies that also provide volunteer ambulance service are eligible to apply for both a volunteer fire company grant and a volunteer ambulance service grant.

An organization that applies for this years grant but has not fulfilled the requirement to submit a Final Report documenting the expenditures of funds they received, in previous grant years, will be excluded from this years grant calculations and will therefore be ineligible to receive a grant for the current year.

Organizations meeting the following definitions will be considered for grant eligibility:

- Volunteer Fire Company - A nonprofit chartered corporation, association or organization located in this Commonwealth which provides fire protection or rescue services and which may offer other voluntary emergency services within this Commonwealth. Voluntary emergency services provided by a volunteer fire company may include voluntary ambulance and voluntary rescue services. (Grant awards shall be not less than \$2,500 and not more than \$15,000 for each eligible volunteer fire company.)
- Volunteer Ambulance Service - Any nonprofit chartered corporation, association or organization located in this Commonwealth, which is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and is not associated or affiliated with any hospital and which is regularly engaged in the provision of emergency medical services, including basic life support or advanced life support services and the transportation of patients within this Commonwealth. (Grant awards shall be not less than \$2,500 and not more than \$10,000 per volunteer ambulance service.)
- Volunteer Rescue Companies - A nonprofit chartered corporation, association or organization located in this Commonwealth that provides rescue services as part of the response to fires and/or vehicle accidents within this Commonwealth. (Grant awards shall be not less than \$2,500 and not more than \$15,000 for each eligible volunteer rescue company.)

Requests for funding for a combination of up to two projects in the following eligible categories may be submitted for consideration with each grant application:

1. Construction and/or renovation of the fire company's or ambulance service's facility and purchase or repair of fixtures and furnishings necessary to maintain or improve the capability of the company to provide fire, ambulance and rescue services.
2. Purchase or repair of firefighting, ambulance or rescue equipment.
3. Debt reduction associated with the facility (1) or equipment (2) categories above.
4. Training and certification of members.

Grants to eligible volunteer fire companies will be contingent on their agreeing to participate in and report information using the Pennsylvania Fire Information Reporting System (PennFIRS).

Volunteer fire company grant awards will be calculated using a basic award which will be a portion of the applicant's grant request (the amount of this basic award will be a predetermined, standard amount for all applicants based on the total amount of the grant requests and the grant funds available), plus an additional award representing all or a portion of the remainder of their request which will be determined by applying an award factor based on bonus points as described in the program guidelines. If necessary, the "additional award" portion of the grant will be prorated so that total grant awards do not exceed the total grant funds available. Volunteer fire company grants to individual volunteer fire companies shall not exceed \$15,000.

As in last year's application, in the firefighter certification section of the application we will again ask that you provide the last four numbers of the individual's social security number.

Grant awards to volunteer ambulance services will be prorated so that total grant awards do not exceed the total grant funds available. Volunteer ambulance service grants to individual volunteer ambulance services shall not exceed \$10,000.

As in last year's application process, applicants will be required to provide a detailed itemized statement of how the requested funds are to be spent. This list of proposed expenditures must account for all of the funding requested.

The Volunteer Fire Company Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program e-Grant application is intended to make the grant application/award process easier for everyone concerned. It is strongly recommended that you use this application process to file your grant application. Online grant help is available throughout the application process by clicking on "Application Assistance." We suggest that you access the instructions and study them before beginning your grant application.

Since information regarding your grant application will be sent to you via email, it is extremely important that you keep all of your contact information current in this e-Grant system. Use the "**Edit Your User Profile**" link on the Application Main Menu page to **keep your information up to date so that you are notified of any change regarding your application's status.**

A paper application form is available upon written request to:

VFCVASGP
Office of the State Fire Commissioner
2605 Interstate Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9364