

An hourglass-shaped graphic with a globe inside. The top bulb is dark blue, and the bottom bulb is light blue. The globe is a darker shade of blue. The hourglass is centered on the page.

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*Assistance to Firefighters Program: Distribution of Fire
Grant Funding*

Lennard G. Kruger, Resources, Science, and Industry Division

October 28, 2008

Abstract. Ongoing issues in the 110th Congress include how appropriations for fire grants should compare with authorized levels, and to what extent the focus of the program should be shifted towards terrorism preparedness and away from the traditional mission of enhancing basic firefighting needs.

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CRS Report for Congress

Assistance to Firefighters Program: Distribution of Fire Grant Funding

Updated October 28, 2008

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Prepared for Members and
Committees of Congress

Assistance to Firefighters Program: Distribution of Fire Grant Funding

Summary

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program, also known as fire grants or the FIRE Act grant program, was established by Title XVII of the FY2001 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 106-398). Currently administered by the Grant Programs Directorate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the program provides federal grants directly to local fire departments and unaffiliated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations to help address a variety of equipment, training, and other firefighter-related and EMS needs. A related program is the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters (SAFER) program, which provides grants for hiring, recruiting, and retaining firefighters.

The fire grant program is now in its eighth year. Over \$4.25 billion has been appropriated to the fire grant program since FY2001. The Fire Act statute was reauthorized in 2004 (Title XXXVI of P.L. 108-375) and provides overall guidelines on how fire grant money should be distributed. There is no set geographical formula for the distribution of fire grants — fire departments throughout the nation apply, and award decisions are made by a peer panel based on the merits of the application and the needs of the community. However, the law does require that fire grants be distributed to a diverse mix of fire departments, with respect to type of department (paid, volunteer, or combination), geographic location, and type of community served (e.g. urban, suburban, or rural).

The Administration proposed \$300 million for fire grants in FY2009, a 46% cut from the FY2008 level of \$560 million. No funding was proposed for SAFER grants. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$750 million for firefighter assistance in FY2009 (\$560 million for fire grants and \$190 million for SAFER grants), while the House Appropriations Committee approved \$800 million for firefighter assistance (\$570 million for fire grants and \$230 million for SAFER grants). The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (P.L. 110-329) — which contains the FY2009 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act — provided \$775 million for firefighter assistance, including \$565 million for fire grants and \$210 million for SAFER.

Ongoing issues in the 110th Congress include how appropriations for fire grants should compare with authorized levels, and to what extent the focus of the program should be shifted towards terrorism preparedness and away from the traditional mission of enhancing basic firefighting needs.

This report will be updated as events warrant.

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Assistance to Firefighters Program: Distribution of Fire Grant Funding

Background

Firefighting activities are traditionally the responsibility of states and local communities. As such, funding for firefighters is provided mostly by state and local governments. During the 1990s, shortfalls in state and local budgets, coupled with increased responsibilities of local fire departments, led many in the fire community to call for additional financial support from the federal government. While federally funded training programs existed (and continue to exist) through the National Fire Academy, and while federal money was available to first responders for counterterrorism training and equipment through the Department of Justice,¹ there did not exist a dedicated program, exclusively for firefighters, which provided federal money directly to local fire departments to help address a wide variety of equipment, training, and other firefighter-related needs.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

During the 106th Congress, many in the fire community asserted that local fire departments require and deserve greater support from the federal government. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), also known as fire grants or the FIRE Act grant program, was established by Title XVII of the FY2001 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 106-398).² Currently administered by the Grant Programs Directorate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the program provides federal grants directly to local fire departments and unaffiliated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations to help address a variety of equipment, training, and other firefighter-related and EMS needs.

Reauthorization

On October 28, 2004, the President signed the FY2005 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 108-375). Title XXXVI of P.L. 108-375 is the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2004, which reauthorizes the

¹ For a list of federal programs providing assistance to state and local first responders, see CRS Report RL32348, *Selected Federal Homeland Security Assistance Programs: A Summary*, by Shawn Reese.

² “Firefighter assistance” is codified as section 33 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2229).

fire grant program through FY2009. **Table 1** provides a summary of key provisions of the current reauthorization.

Table 1. Major Provisions of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Reauthorization Act

<p>Grant recipient limits: populations over 1 million — lesser of \$2.75 million or 0.5% of total appropriation populations of 500K to 1 million — \$1.75 million populations under 500K — \$1 million no single grant can exceed 0.5% of total funds appropriated for a single fiscal year DHS can waive the funding limits for populations up to 1 million in instances of extraordinary need; however the lesser of \$2.75 million or 0.5% limit cannot be waived</p>
<p>Nonfederal match requirements: 20% for populations over 50K 10% for populations 20K to 50K 5% for populations less than 20K No match requirement for non-fire department prevention and firefighter safety grants</p>
<p>Authorized for five years: FY2005 — \$900 million FY2006 — \$950 million FY2007 — \$1 billion FY2008 — \$1 billion FY2009 — \$1 billion</p>
<p>Expands grant eligibility to emergency medical service squads, not less than 3.5% of fire grant money for EMS, but no more than 2% for nonaffiliated EMS</p>
<p>Provides grants for firefighter health and safety R&D</p>
<p>Requires the USFA Administrator to convene an annual meeting of non-federal fire service experts to recommend criteria for awarding grants and administrative changes</p>
<p>Requires fire service peer review of grant applications</p>
<p>Requires the USFA, in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Association, to conduct a \$300,000, 18-month study on the fire grant program and the need for federal assistance to state and local communities to fund firefighting and emergency response activities</p>

Source: Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2004, Section XXXVI of P.L. 108-375, FY2005 National Defense Authorization Act

Appropriations

From FY2001 through FY2003, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program (as part of USFA/FEMA) received its primary appropriation through the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriation Act. In FY2004, the Assistance to Firefighters Program began to receive its annual appropriation through the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Homeland Security. The fire grant

program is in its eighth year. **Table 2** shows the fire grant program's appropriations history. Over \$4.815 billion has been appropriated to the fire grant program since FY2001, its initial year. **Table 3** shows current and proposed appropriated funding for firefighter assistance.

Table 2. Appropriations for Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, FY2001-FY2009

Fiscal year	Appropriation
FY2001	\$100 million
FY2002	\$360 million
FY2003	\$745 million
FY2004	\$746 million
FY2005	\$650 million
FY2006	\$539 million
FY2007	\$547 million
FY2008	\$560 million
FY2009	\$565 million
Total	\$4.815 billion

Table 3. Current Appropriations for Firefighter Assistance
(millions of dollars)

	FY2008 (P.L. 110-161)	FY2009 Admin. request	FY2009 H.Rept. 110- 862	FY2009 S.Rept. 110-396	FY2009 P.L. 110-329
FIRE Grants	560	300	570	560	565
SAFER Grants	190	0	230	190	210
Total	750	300	800	750	775

FY2008. The Administration proposed \$300 million for fire grants in FY2008, a 45% cut from the FY2007 level. No funding was proposed for SAFER grants. The total request for firefighter assistance was 55% below the FY2007 level for fire and SAFER grants combined. The FY2008 budget proposal would have eliminated grants for wellness/fitness activities and modifications to facilities for firefighter safety. The budget justification requested funding for “applications that enhance the most critical capabilities of local response to fire-related hazards in the event of a

terrorist attack or major disaster.” The budget justification also stated that the requested level of funding is “an appropriate level of funding given the availability of significant amounts of funding for first responder preparedness missions from other Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant programs which are better coordinated with state and local homeland security strategies and, unlike AFG, are allocated on the basis of risk.”

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-161) provided \$560 million for fire grants and \$190 million for SAFER grants, a total of \$750 million for firefighter assistance in FY2008. As stated in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying P.L. 110-161, \$3 million was made available for foam firefighter equipment used in remote areas, to be competitively awarded. GAO was directed to review the application and award process for fire and SAFER grants, and FEMA was directed to peer review all grant applications that meet criteria established by FEMA and the fire service.

FY2009. The Administration proposed \$300 million for fire grants in FY2009, a 46% cut from the FY2008 level of \$560 million. No funding was proposed for SAFER grants. The total request for firefighter assistance was 60% below the FY2008 level for fire and SAFER grants combined. According to the budget justification, “the Administration believes that \$287 million is an appropriate level of funding given the availability of significant amounts of funding for first responder preparedness missions from other DHS grant programs which are coordinated with state and local homeland security strategies and, unlike AFG, are allocated on the basis of risk.” Priority will be given to applications that enhance capabilities needed for terrorism response and other major incidents. Funding will only be available for critical response equipment, training, and personal protective gear, and will not be available for wellness/fitness activities or modifications to facilities for firefighter safety.

On June 19, 2008, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the FY2009 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security (S. 3181; S.Rept. 110-396). The bill would provide \$750 million for firefighter assistance, including \$560 million for fire grants and \$190 million for SAFER grants. This is the same funding level approved for FY2008. The Committee directed DHS to continue the present practice of funding applications according to local priorities and those established by the U.S. Fire Administration, and further directed DHS to continue direct funding to fire departments and the peer review process. Additionally, \$3 million was made available for foam firefighter equipment used in remote areas.

On June 24, 2008, the House Appropriations Committee approved its version of the FY2009 appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security, and reported its bill on September 18, 2008 (H.R. 6947; H.Rept. 110-862). The Committee would provide \$800 million for firefighter assistance, consisting of \$570 million for fire grants and \$230 million for SAFER grants. The Committee directed FEMA to continue granting funds directly to local fire departments and to include the U.S. Fire Administration during the grant administration process, while also maintaining an all-hazards focus and not limiting the list of eligible activities. The Committee would continue the requirement that FEMA peer review grant applications that meet criteria established by FEMA and the fire service, rank order applications according

to peer review, fund applications according to their rank order, and provide official notification detailing why applications do not meet the criteria for review. The Committee also directed FEMA to encourage regional applications.

The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (P.L. 110-329) — which contains the FY2009 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act — provided \$775 million for firefighter assistance, including \$565 million for fire grants and \$210 million for SAFER. The DHS explanatory statement directed FEMA to continue the present practice of funding applications according to local priorities and those established by the USFA.

SAFER Grants

In response to concerns over the adequacy of firefighter staffing, the 108th Congress enacted the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Act as Section 1057 of the FY2004 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 108-136; signed into law November 24, 2003). The SAFER grant program is codified as Section 34 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a). The SAFER Act authorizes grants to career, volunteer, and combination fire departments for the purpose of increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry minimum standards and attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. Also authorized are grants to volunteer fire departments for activities related to the recruitment and retention of volunteers. P.L. 108-136 authorizes over one billion dollars per year through FY2010 for SAFER.

Two types of grants are authorized by the SAFER Act: hiring grants and recruitment and retention grants. *Hiring grants* cover a four-year term and are cost-shared with the local jurisdiction. According to the statute, the federal share shall not exceed 90% in the first year of the grant, 80% in the second year, 50% in the third year, and 30% in the fourth year. The grantee must commit to retaining the firefighter or firefighters hired with the SAFER grant for at least one additional year after the federal money expires. Total federal funding for hiring a firefighter over the four-year grant period may not exceed \$100,000, although that total may be adjusted for inflation. While the majority of hiring grants will be awarded to career and combination fire departments, the SAFER Act specifies that 10% of the total SAFER appropriation be awarded to volunteer or majority-volunteer departments for the hiring of personnel.

Additionally, at least 10% of the total SAFER appropriation is set aside for *recruitment and retention grants*, which are available to volunteer and combination fire departments for activities related to the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. Also eligible for recruitment and retention grants are local and statewide organizations that represent the interests of volunteer firefighters. No local cost sharing is required for recruitment and retention grants.

Table 4 shows the SAFER program's appropriations history. \$479 million has been appropriated to the SAFER program since FY2005, its initial year. For more information on the SAFER program, see CRS Report RL33375, *Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response: The SAFER Grant Program*.

Table 4. Appropriations for SAFER Program, FY2005-FY2009

Fiscal year	Appropriation
FY2005	\$65 million
FY2006	\$109 million
FY2007	\$115 million
FY2008	\$190 million
FY2009	\$210 million
Total	\$689 million

Program Evaluation

On May 13, 2003, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) released the first independent evaluation of the Assistance to Firefighters Program. Conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Leadership Development Academy Executive Potential Program, the survey study presented a number of recommendations and concluded overall that the program was “highly effective in improving the readiness and capabilities of firefighters across the nation.”³ Another evaluation of the fire grant program was released by the DHS Office of Inspector General in September 2003. The report concluded that the program “succeeded in achieving a balanced distribution of funding through a competitive grant process,”⁴ and made a number of specific recommendations for improving the program.

At the request of DHS, the National Academy of Public Administration conducted a study to help identify potential new strategic directions for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program and to provide advice on how to effectively plan, manage, and measure program accomplishments. Released in April 2007, the report recommended consideration of new strategic directions related to national preparedness, prevention vs. response, social equity, regional cooperation, and emergency medical response. According to the report, the “challenge for the AFG program will be to support a gradual shift in direction without losing major strengths of its current management approach — including industry driven priority setting and its well-respected peer review process.”⁵

³ For full report see [<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/affgp-fy01-usda-report.pdf>].

⁴ Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspections, Evaluations, and Special Reviews, “A Review of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program,” OIG-ISP-01-03, September 2003, p. 3. Available at [http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmttrpts/OIG_Review_Fire_Assist.pdf].

⁵ National Academy of Public Administration, *Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program: Assessing Performance*, April 2007, p. xvii. Available at [http://www.napawash.org/pc_management_studies/Fire_Grants_Report_April2007.pdf].

The Administration's FY2008 budget proposal was accompanied by program evaluations called the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). For assessment year 2007, PART gave the fire grant program a rating of "Effective," (an improvement from the previous rating of "Results Not Demonstrated"). The PART directed DHS to embark on an improvement plan encompassing three elements: establishing a continuing strategic planning process, improving program transparency, and increasing outreach.⁶

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-161), in the accompanying Joint Explanatory Statement, directed the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review the application and award process for fire and SAFER grants. Additionally, FEMA was directed to peer review grant applications that best address the program's priorities and criteria as established by FEMA and the fire service. Those criteria necessary for peer-review must be included in the grant application package. Applicants whose grant applications are not reviewed must receive an official notification detailing why the application did not meet the criteria for review. Applications must be rank-ordered, and funded following the rank order.

Distribution of Fire Grants

The FIRE Act statute prescribes 14 different purposes for which fire grant money *may* be used (see 15 U.S.C. 2229(b)(3)). These are: hiring firefighters; training firefighters; creating rapid intervention teams; certifying fire inspectors; establishing wellness and fitness programs; funding emergency medical services; acquiring firefighting vehicles; acquiring firefighting equipment; acquiring personal protective equipment; modifying fire stations; enforcing fire codes; funding fire prevention programs; educating the public about arson prevention and detection; and providing incentives for the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. The DHS has the discretion to decide which of those purposes will be funded for a given grant year. Since the program commenced in FY2001, the majority of fire grant funding has been used by fire departments to purchase firefighting equipment, personal protective equipment, and firefighting vehicles. The program does not award funding for major building construction.

Eligible applicants are limited primarily to fire departments (defined as an agency or organization that has a formally recognized arrangement with a state, local, or tribal authority to provide fire suppression, fire prevention and rescue services to a population within a fixed geographical area). Emergency Medical Services (EMS) activities are eligible for fire grants, including a limited number (no more than 2% of funds allocated) to EMS organizations not affiliated with hospitals. Additionally, a separate competition is held for fire prevention and firefighter safety research and development grants, which are available to national, state, local, or community fire prevention or safety organizations (including, but not limited to, fire departments).

⁶ Office of Management and Budget, ExpectMore.gov, Detailed Information on the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Grants and Training Office Assistance to Firefighters Grants Assessment, Assessment Year 2007, available at [<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/expectmore/detail/10001071.2007.html>].

For official program guidelines, frequently-asked-questions, the latest awards announcements, and other information, see the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program web page at [<http://www.firegrantsupport.com/>].

The FIRE Act statute provides overall guidelines on how fire grant money will be distributed and administered. The law directs that volunteer departments receive a proportion of the total grant funding that is not less than the proportion of the U.S. population that those departments protect (currently 55%). The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Title XXXVI of P.L.108-375) raised award caps and lowered nonfederal matching requirements (based on recipient community population), extended eligibility to nonaffiliated emergency medical services (i.e. ambulance services not affiliated with fire departments), and expanded the scope of grants to include firefighter safety R&D.

There is no set geographical formula for the distribution of fire grants — fire departments throughout the nation apply, and award decisions are made by a peer panel based on the merits of the application and the needs of the community. However, the law does require that fire grants should be distributed to a diverse mix of fire departments, with respect to type of department (paid, volunteer, or combination), geographic location, and type of community served (e.g. urban, suburban, or rural).⁷ The Fire Act's implementing regulation provides that:

In a few cases, to fulfill our obligations under the law to make grants to a variety of departments, we may also make funding decisions using rank order as the preliminary basis, and then analyze the type of fire department (paid, volunteer, or combination fire departments), the size and character of the community it serves (urban, suburban, or rural), and/or the geographic location of the fire department. In these instances where we are making decisions based on geographic location, we will use States as the basic geographic unit.⁸

According to the FY2008 Program Guidance for the Assistance to Firefighters Program, career (paid) departments will compete against other career departments for up to 45% of the available funding, while volunteer and combination departments will compete for at least 55% of the available funding.⁹ However, given that less than 10% of fire grant applications are historically received from career departments, funding levels are likely not to reach the 45% ceiling for career departments.¹⁰ Additionally, each fire department that applies is classified as either urban, suburban, or rural. In FY2005, 6% of the total number of fire grant awards went to urban areas, 17% to suburban areas, and 77% to rural areas. Of the total amount of federal

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 2229(b)(9).

⁸ 44 CFR Part 152.6(c).

⁹ For the FY2008 round of awards, no less than 33% of AFG funds must be awarded to combination departments, and no less than 22% of AFG funds must be awarded to all-volunteer departments. See Department of Homeland Security, *Fiscal Year 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program and Application Guidance*, February 2008, p. 7.

¹⁰ Department of Homeland Security, *Fiscal Year 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program and Application*, March 2007 p. 52.

funding awarded, 11% went to urban areas, 20% to suburban areas, and 69% to rural areas.¹¹

Finally, in an effort to maximize the diversity of awardees, the geographic location of an applicant (using states as the basic geographic unit) is used as a deciding factor in cases where applicants have similar qualifications. **Table 5** shows a state-by-state breakdown of fire grant funding for FY2001 through FY2007, while **Table 6** shows a state-by-state breakdown of SAFER grant funding for FY2005 through FY2007. **Table 7** provides an in-depth look at the FY2007 fire grants, showing, for each state, the number of fire departments in each state,¹² the number of fire grant applications, the total amount requested, the total amount awarded, and the amount of funds awarded as a percentage of funds requested. As **Table 7** shows, the entire pool of fire department applicants received, to date, about 16% of the funds they requested in FY2007. This is down from 21% in FY2006, 22% in FY2005, 28% in FY2004, and 34% in FY2003. This reflects the fact that the number of applications and federal funds requested have trended upward over these years, while appropriations for the fire grant program have declined over the same period.

Issues in the 110th Congress

A primary issue in the 110th Congress is how appropriations for fire grants should compare with the authorized annual levels of \$1 billion. The Administration's budget proposals have typically recommended significant cuts for fire grants, as well as zero funding for SAFER grants. Opponents of the cuts have argued that the reduced levels are inadequate to meet the needs of fire departments, while the Administration has argued that reduced levels are sufficient to enhance critical capabilities in the event of a terrorist attack or major disaster. Aside from budget issues, an ongoing issue has been the focus of the fire grant program. Administration budget proposals have sought to shift the priority of the fire grant program to terrorism preparedness. Firefighting groups have questioned this proposed shift, arguing that the original purpose of the Fire Act (enhancing basic firefighting needs) should not be compromised or diluted. Similarly, in recent years, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have directed the AFG program to maintain a broad all-hazards focus. S. 608, the Risk-Based Homeland Security Grants Act of 2007, would direct DHS to conduct a study analyzing the distribution of fire grant awards and the level of unmet firefighting equipment needs in each state.

¹¹ Department of Homeland Security, National Preparedness Directorate, Capabilities Division, *Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, FY2005 Report*, p. 14.

¹² The fire grant program sets a limit of up to three applications per fire department per year (a vehicle application, an application for operations and safety, and a regional application). Thus, the number of fire departments in a state plays a major factor in the number of fire grant applications submitted and the amount of total funding awarded within a given state. For example, because Pennsylvania has — by far — the largest number of fire departments, it is not surprising that it leads the nation in the number of fire grants applications and the amount of funding awarded.

A related issue is the role of the U.S. Fire Administration in the administration of the fire grant program. At its inception, the program was administered by the USFA/FEMA and focused on enhancing the basic needs of fire departments across the nation. In the FY2004 budget request, as part of its effort to consolidate terrorism preparedness grants under a single entity, the Administration proposed to relocate the fire grant program within the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), whose mission was to provide state and local governments with assistance to improve their readiness for terrorism incidents. The FY2004 DHS Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-90) acceded to the Administration's request, and relocated the fire grants to ODP. The Conferees directed that DHS shall "continue current administrative practices in a manner identical to the current fiscal year, including a peer review process of applications, granting funds directly to local fire departments, and the inclusion of the United States Fire Administration during grant administration."

On January 26, 2004, then-DHS Secretary Ridge informed Congress of his intention to consolidate ODP, including the Assistance to Firefighters Program, into the Office of State and Local Government Coordination Preparedness (OSLGCP). The FY2005 Homeland Security appropriations act (P.L. 108-334) placed the fire grant program within OSLGCP. However, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-375) designated administration of the fire grant program to USFA. According to the FY2006 budget request, the fire grant program would be administered by the OSLGCP "in cooperation with the USFA."

On July 13, 2005, DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff announced a restructuring of DHS, effective October 1, 2005. Under the restructuring plan, the fire grants (as well as the SAFER grants) were to be administered by the Office of Grants and Training in the new DHS Directorate for Preparedness. However, legislation considered in the 109th Congress sought to restructure FEMA within DHS, with the result that fire and SAFER grant programs would be transferred back to FEMA. Ultimately, Title VI of the Conference Agreement on the DHS appropriations bill (P.L. 109-295; H.Rept. 109-699), the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, transferred most of the existing Preparedness Directorate (including fire and SAFER grants and the USFA) back to an enhanced FEMA.

**Table 5. State-by-State Distribution of Fire Grants,
FY2001-FY2007**
(millions of dollars)

	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	Total
AL	3.085	12.503	23.329	25.097	20.836	22.027	19.885	126.762
AK	1.303	2.641	5.242	2.522	3.111	0.754	2.454	18.027
AZ	1.37	3.6	7.490	9.808	7.905	4.041	4.932	39.146
AR	1.337	4.635	10.675	13.680	10.402	7.699	7.799	56.227
CA	5.905	18.978	30.060	29.793	25.631	17.856	18.730	146.953
CO	1.003	3.968	6.168	5.585	6.073	3.213	4.742	30.752
CT	1.828	4.675	10.841	9.991	7.287	5.479	6.630	46.731
DE	0.132	0.372	1.096	1.755	1.161	1.107	0.518	6.141
DC	0	0.22	0	0	0.453	0	0.376	1.049
FL	2.865	10.16	16.344	15.969	17.922	6.787	8.288	78.335
GA	2.375	6.079	13.791	11.857	10.168	8.887	9.068	62.225
HI	0	1.182	0.947	0.864	1.205	0.264	0.436	4.898
ID	0.916	2.744	6.001	4.828	4.684	2.712	4.297	26.182
IL	2.417	13.398	28.810	27.238	25.433	21.120	21.923	140.339
IN	2.703	8.739	20.456	18.646	15.779	14.447	13.831	94.601
IA	1.301	7.284	16.087	16.430	13.119	10.064	9.298	73.583
KS	1.153	5.118	10.850	10.211	7.165	4.984	5.502	44.983
KY	2.215	7.896	19.832	16.150	14.215	13.308	13.081	86.697
LA	3.344	10.084	12.248	11.101	11.630	6.935	5.473	60.815
ME	1.296	4.319	10.323	10.031	6.124	6.702	5.486	44.281
MD	0.739	4.08	8.153	10.227	8.771	10.368	7.712	50.05
MA	2.301	8.386	15.715	13.958	13.529	8.957	11.644	74.49
MI	2.815	8.948	17.247	20.005	15.088	15.798	10.611	90.512
MN	2.133	8.149	17.510	18.609	14.894	14.718	16.600	92.613
MS	1.763	6.755	15.679	11.329	9.856	7.885	8.052	61.319
MO	3.079	10.291	19.573	17.757	14.246	13.202	10.611	88.759
MT	1.164	3.726	8.361	7.271	6.656	5.839	7.330	40.347
NE	1.034	2.392	7.820	6.577	5.116	4.399	4.443	31.781
NV	0.282	1.446	3.312	1.405	1.946	0.857	1.530	10.778
NH	0.594	1.887	4.584	5.694	4.563	3.307	3.219	23.848
NJ	2.596	6.339	19.982	16.488	14.691	12.386	13.266	85.748
NM	1.455	3.463	5.048	3.653	2.259	1.461	1.367	18.706
NY	3.978	14.728	34.320	35.030	36.009	33.804	22.664	180.533
NC	1.949	10.239	22.864	22.360	19.315	18.309	20.031	115.067

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	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	Total
ND	0.546	2.613	5.105	3.391	2.673	2.459	3.100	19.887
OH	2.731	13.742	26.997	29.107	27.344	25.380	26.433	151.734
OK	1.864	4.939	10.540	10.393	8.757	10.852	7.220	54.565
OR	1.596	4.892	9.896	10.122	10.014	9.288	5.943	51.751
PA	2.89	16.97	45.179	47.898	39.233	41.259	43.610	237.039
RI	0.407	1.507	2.327	1.917	2.129	2.025	0.855	11.167
SC	1.554	5.257	11.832	14.150	10.544	8.028	10.470	61.835
SD	0.904	3.142	5.602	4.693	3.570	2.989	2.474	23.374
TN	2.46	11.509	19.306	18.686	15.047	11.209	12.955	91.172
TX	3.697	15.644	29.264	30.118	23.480	18.035	17.691	137.929
UT	0.9	2.754	4.628	3.880	2.188	2.213	3.378	19.941
VT	0.451	1.971	5.163	4.747	2.071	1.456	1.820	17.679
VA	2.066	8.79	15.816	16.668	14.357	8.317	10.403	76.417
WA	1.535	7.544	18.808	19.565	15.763	16.150	12.951	92.316
WV	1.067	3.966	9.942	9.133	10.143	5.838	7.070	47.159
WI	2.077	7.518	18.234	19.668	17.685	13.994	19.439	98.615
WY	1.09	1.612	3.507	1.811	2.032	1.197	1.645	12.894
PR	0.657	0.382	1.643	1.140	1.104	0.528	0.019	5.473
MP	0.145	0.225	0	0	0.220	0.172	0	0.762
GU	0	0.016	0	0	0	0.287	0	0.303
AS	0.164	0	0	0.284	0	0	0	0.448
VI	0.741	0	0.544	0	0	0	0	1.285
Tot.	91.972	334.417	695.121	679.305	585.619	491.375	494.108	3367.023

Source: Department of Homeland Security. FY2007 awards data not final, current as of 9/22/2008.

**Table 6. State-by-State Distribution of SAFER Grants,
FY2005-FY2007**
(millions of dollars)

	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Alabama	1.611	6.215	3.822	11.648
Alaska	1.051	0.205	0.418	1.674
Arizona	1.560	3.559	4.111	9.23
Arkansas	0.394	1.820	0.377	2.591
California	5.221	5.212	4.119	14.552
Colorado	1.584	3.479	1.730	6.793
Connecticut	0.130	0.191	0.809	1.13
Delaware	0	0.135	0	0.135
District of Columbia	0	0	0	0
Florida	6.576	9.329	4.636	20.541
Georgia	5.354	2.085	2.842	10.281
Hawaii	0	0	0	0
Idaho	0.063	0.621	0.626	1.31
Illinois	1.340	4.463	9.406	15.209
Indiana	0	0.099	2.687	2.786
Iowa	0.169	0.144	0.980	1.293
Kansas	0.667	0.045	1.029	1.741
Kentucky	0.152	2.890	0.429	3.471
Louisiana	3.430	3.078	4.651	11.159
Maine	0.081	0	0.316	0.397
Maryland	0.096	1.862	1.526	3.484
Massachusetts	1.300	2.079	4.372	7.751
Michigan	1.759	0.592	0	2.351
Minnesota	0.300	1.089	0.375	1.764
Mississippi	0.756	0.594	0.115	1.465
Missouri	1.467	3.547	4.551	9.565
Montana	0.034	0.255	2.635	2.924
Nebraska	0	0.873	0.632	1.505
Nevada	1.500	1.714	0.632	3.846
New Hampshire	0.400	1.035	1.528	2.963
New Jersey	6.374	3.971	1.688	12.033
New Mexico	0	3.123	0.361	3.484
New York	1.540	2.991	2.845	7.376
North Carolina	2.155	5.533	4.631	12.319

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	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
North Dakota	0	0.609	0	0.609
Ohio	1.319	1.881	2.255	5.455
Oklahoma	0.147	0.699	0.531	1.377
Oregon	1.710	2.141	2.649	6.5
Pennsylvania	1.244	1.475	2.633	5.352
Rhode Island	0.400	0	0.105	0.505
South Carolina	0.456	0.863	3.218	4.537
South Dakota	0.063	0.311	0.211	0.585
Tennessee	2.700	2.719	3.569	8.988
Texas	0.951	10.961	6.564	18.476
Utah	0.900	3.312	2.003	6.215
Vermont	0	0.621	0.632	1.253
Virginia	2.091	3.554	0.782	6.427
Washington	2.298	2.897	7.024	12.219
West Virginia	0	0.187	0.681	0.868
Wisconsin	0	0.072	1.012	1.084
Wyoming	0	0	0.316	0.316
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0
Northern Mariana Islands	0	0	0	0
Marshall Islands	0	0	0	0
Guam	0	0	0	0
American Samoa	0	0	0	0
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0
Republic of Palua	0	0	0	0
Total	61.356	105.142	104.659	271.157

Source: Department of Homeland Security. FY2007 awards data not final, current as of 9/22/2008.

Table 7. Requests and Awards for Fire Grant Funding, FY2007

State	Number of fire/EMS departments ^a	Number of applications	Federal funds requested (\$millions)	Federal funds awarded (\$millions)	Funds awarded as a % of funds requested
Alabama	958	720	91.230	19.885	0.2179655815
Alaska	72	72	13.759	2.454	0.1783559852
Arizona	281	166	36.489	4.932	0.135164022
Arkansas	826	458	58.209	7.799	0.1339827174
California	802	499	100.560	18.730	0.186256961
Colorado	371	197	29.258	4.742	0.1620753298
Connecticut	393	220	40.017	6.630	0.1656795862
Delaware	77	32	6.217	0.518	0.083319929
District of Columbia	18	2	0.418	0.376	0.8995215311
Florida	748	293	60.133	8.288	0.137827815
Georgia	792	331	57.090	9.068	0.1588369242
Hawaii	18	4	1.168	0.436	0.3732876712
Idaho	211	111	18.762	4.297	0.2290267562
Illinois	1081	858	130.841	21.923	0.1675545127
Indiana	656	480	83.228	13.831	0.1661820541
Iowa	862	531	61.512	9.298	0.1511574977
Kansas	674	298	36.207	5.502	0.1519595658
Kentucky	797	618	86.117	13.081	0.1518979992
Louisiana	555	256	40.891	5.473	0.1338436331
Maine	426	300	41.620	5.486	0.131811629
Maryland	408	202	40.003	7.712	0.1927855411
Massachusetts	407	339	65.842	11.644	0.1768476049
Michigan	858	755	107.539	15.399	0.143194562
Minnesota	768	574	74.210	16.600	0.2236895297
Mississippi	756	498	64.418	8.052	0.1249961191
Missouri	862	587	76.915	10.611	0.1379574855
Montana	279	232	36.531	7.330	0.2006515015
Nebraska	485	201	23.130	4.443	0.1920881971

State	Number of fire/EMS departments ^a	Number of applications	Federal funds requested (\$millions)	Federal funds awarded (\$millions)	Funds awarded as a % of funds requested
Nevada	159	27	6.640	1.530	0.2304216867
New Hampshire	255	143	18.716	3.219	0.1719918786
New Jersey	1037	609	93.805	13.266	0.141421033
New Mexico	337	99	14.804	1.367	0.092339908
New York	1880	1238	162.786	22.664	0.1392257319
North Carolina	1407	721	112.471	20.032	0.1781081345
North Dakota	322	163	20.217	3.100	0.1533363011
Ohio	1332	984	160.235	26.433	0.1649639592
Oklahoma	772	478	59.814	7.221	0.1207242452
Oregon	358	202	31.343	5.943	0.1896117155
Pennsylvania	2624	2031	299.338	43.611	0.1456914926
Rhode Island	98	71	13.980	0.855	0.061158798
South Carolina	591	381	53.721	10.471	0.1949144655
South Dakota	345	172	19.604	2.474	0.126198735
Tennessee	642	634	84.878	12.955	0.1526308348
Texas	1873	826	128.511	17.691	0.1376613675
Utah	219	123	18.785	3.378	0.1798243279
Vermont	254	115	17.402	1.820	0.1045856798
Virginia	810	318	56.800	10.403	0.1831514085
Washington	538	359	74.687	12.951	0.1734036713
West Virginia	476	299	48.579	7.069	0.145515552
Wisconsin	898	746	103.653	19.439	0.1875391933
Wyoming	134	45	8.843	1.645	0.1860228429
Puerto Rico	Not available	109	7.420	0.019	0.00256065
Northern Marianas	Not available	1	0.204	0	0
Guam	Not available	1	0.451	0	0
Total	31,822	20,731	3100.309	494.108	15.94%

Source: Department of Homeland Security. FY2007 awards data not final, current as of 8/6/2008.

a. Data from [<http://firehouse.com>], updated January 2008.