



COVID-19 Economic Resources

The following resources are designed to help localities and states address the coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency.

FEMA COVID-19 Response Reimbursement

The president's nationwide emergency declaration (under the **Stafford Act**) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic frees up more than \$40 billion in emergency federal funds to help combat the virus and specifically allows state and local governments to be reimbursed up to 75 percent for emergency protective measures under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program. Additionally, Congress appropriated an additional \$45 billion for this purpose. Funding is available for a wide variety of expenses related to the COVID-19 public health emergency, including:

Emergency Medical Care of COVID-19 Patients

- Emergency medical transport (including to alternative destinations)
- Specialized emergency medical care

Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs)

- Increased utility costs
- Lease costs
- Supply costs

Facilities

- Cleaning and disinfection of stations, apparatus and equipment
- Purchase of disinfection products, supplies and services
- Relocation to a temporary facility
- Enhancements to existing facilities

Meals

- Meals and meal supplies for emergency workers (restrictions apply)

Medical supplies

- Purchase of durable medical supplies
- Purchase of disposable medical supplies
- Disposal of medical waste

Medical testing and vaccination

- Testing for emergency workers
- Vaccinations for emergency workers

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Purchase of PPE
- Cleaning of PPE

Housing

Non-congregate sheltering for first responders who test positive for COVID-19, have been exposed to the virus or require isolation as a precautionary measure.

Staffing

- Backfill employees
- Temporary employee.
- Overtime costs

ACTION STEPS FOR AFFILIATE LEADERS

1. Encourage your fire department to track and seek reimbursement for all COVID-19 related expenses.
2. For additional information regarding the 75 percent fire department reimbursements see **FEMA Guidance**.
3. For IAFF assistance, contact your District Vice President.

Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Opportunities

AFG COVID-19 Supplemental Funding

100 million in supplemental funding is available through the AFG grant program specifically for PPE and related supplies. The COVID-19 Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity **application period** is April 28-May 15 at 5:00 p.m. (ET)

ACTION STEPS FOR AFFILIATE LEADERS

1. Encourage your fire department to submit a grant application by 5:00 p.m. (ET) May 15, 2020.
2. For IAFF assistance, contact your District Vice President.

FY 2019 SAFER Funding

\$350 million is currently available through the **Fiscal Year 2019 SAFER program**. Although not COVID-specific, these funds provide resources to local fire departments to hire fire fighters. For FY19, the FEMA administrator may waive or reduce the cost share, position cost limit, minimum budget or supplanting requirements in cases of demonstrated economic hardship.

Applications for FY 2019 SAFER grants are due by May 15, 2020.

FY 2020 AFG

For FY 2020, Congress appropriated \$355 million for the AFG grant program for equipment, apparatus and training and \$355 million for the SAFER grant program to hire fire fighters. The application period is April 27-May 29 at 5:00 p.m. (ET)

FY 2020 SAFER

The IAFF estimates the FY 2020 SAFER grant application period will open in winter 2021.

To apply for AFG and SAFER funding, fire departments must use the new FEMA application system. The department must register early if it is not already at go.fema.gov.

ACTION STEPS FOR AFFILIATE LEADERS

1. Work with your fire departments to apply for and secure this grant funding.
2. For IAFF assistance, contact your District Vice President.

DHS Preparedness Funding Opportunities

Although not COVID-19 specific, other federal dollars are authorized and appropriated for preparedness. Funds for equipment, PPE, training, overtime/backfill for training and other preparedness-related activities are allowable.

This Department of Homeland Security (DHS) **funding** is an annual appropriation authorized under the 9/11 Act and, therefore, require a nexus to terrorism.

Total funding available in fiscal year 2020:

- State Homeland Security Program (HSGP) — **\$415 million**
- Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) — **\$615 million**

Your State Administrative Agency (SAA) is responsible for applying for these funds, therefore, you must work through your local and state emergency management agencies or homeland security department to apply. Find your SAA [here](#).

The **Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)** is another possibility for departments that are near a major port. For this application, the captain of the port, usually a U.S. Coast Guard captain is responsible for reviewing and prioritizing projects before submitting the application to FEMA. Total funding available in FY 2020: **\$100 million**. This program has in the past covered equipment, training and associated overtime/backfill, as well as fire boats if they are involved with the protection of the port.

While your states or ports may have already applied for SHGP, UASI and PSGP funds for 2020, funding is awarded for a three-year period of performance. It is not unusual to have prior-year funding reprogrammed to meet your needs if projects came in under budget and there is funding left or projects are no longer a priority.

The IAFF encourages you to get involved with the committees established at the state, local and UASI level for these funds. It is those committees that ultimately decide how the funding is distributed and used.

FY 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program Modifications

Modifications to the FY 2020 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and the FY 2020 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) are available to address COVID-19 expenses. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/FEMA will adjust awards to the high end of each state, territory or high-risk urban area's target allocation range for the two programs.

Allocations to states and localities and modification guidance are [available here](#).

ACTION STEPS FOR AFFILIATE LEADERS

1. Work with your District Vice President and state affiliate. Funding may available under your state HSGP, UASI or PSGP.

Coronavirus Relief Fund

The CARES Act provided \$150 billion for state and local governments through the Coronavirus Relief Fund to cover expenses that meet the following criteria:

- (1) Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19.
- (2) Were not accounted for in the budget approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date the CARES Act was enacted) for the state or government.
- (3) Were incurred during the period beginning March 1, 2020, and ending on December 30, 2020.

Funding for states from this fund and distribution methodology for local governments is [listed here](#). Eligible units of local government are [listed here](#).

ACTION STEPS FOR AFFILIATE LEADERS

1. First determine if your municipality is one of the **171 cities, towns or counties** eligible to receive this money.
2. If eligible, ask your finance department or comptroller if your municipality applied for and received funding.
3. Find out how much the municipality received and what the current proposed plan for funds is (this money can be used based on the parameters outlined in the guidance).
4. If your municipality is not eligible, work with your District Vice President and state affiliate to access this funding through the state. In most cases, the governor or state legislature has a designee overseeing the distribution of this money.

CARES Act Provider Relief Fund

The CARES Act and the Paycheck Protection Program and Healthcare Prevention Act contain a combined \$175 billion to reimburse healthcare providers, including EMS, for healthcare expenses or lost revenue, such as costs related to medical supplies and equipment, including PPE, increased workforce expenses and surge capacity. Of that, \$30 billion has been allocated **as follows**. The remaining funds will be allocated in the near future.

ACTION STEPS FOR AFFILIATE LEADERS

1. Work with your District Vice President and request assistance from your state affiliate. This money is directed to state public health departments and has restrictions. Review existing state laws and rules to determine if your EMS system is eligible. This will depend on state laws and the relationship between the hospitals and health systems.

CDC Funding

To support governmental public health emergency response to COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded nearly \$730 million in funding to 65 eligible jurisdictions to provide resources to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19. This funding is intended for state, local, territorial and tribal health departments to carry out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications and other preparedness and response activities.

The CDC has awarded this funding in two phases:

- March 16: \$569,822,380 was awarded to 65 jurisdictions. CDC awarded this critical funding in just 10 days, well within the 30-day window required by the supplemental appropriation.
- April 6: \$160 million was awarded to 34 jurisdictions. This includes 27 jurisdictions with high COVID-19 case counts or evidence of rapidly accelerating case counts and seven U.S. territories and freely associated states with unique COVID-19 response challenges.

In addition, the CDC redirected agency funds to initially award \$25 million on March 5 to 21 jurisdictions for COVID-19 response activities.

More details on this funding and funding allocations is **available here**.

ACTION STEPS FOR AFFILIATE LEADERS

1. Work with your District Vice President and state affiliate to access funds.
2. All 50 states and six large metropolitan areas are eligible for this funding. States that received this money likely accepted it through the Health and Human Services Division or similar agency in the state.

Federal Reserve's Municipal Liquidity Facility

The Federal Reserve helps stabilize the U.S. economy by working with financial institutions, assisting credit markets and controlling the money supply. The Federal Reserve's recent actions, which make funds available for cash-strapped municipalities amid the COVID-19 crisis, have profound implications for the fiscal health of

cities.¹ Below is information on the Federal Reserve's Municipal Liquidity Facility and its potential impact on the livelihoods of professional fire fighters over the next few months.

How the Policy Affects IAFF Members

Qualifying municipalities can use these funds to pay fire fighters' salaries until they receive deferred monies from tax revenues, intergovernmental transfers and charges and fees.

The Problem

- Thousands of local government leaders are reporting immediate losses of revenue sources they depend on to fund public services
- Many residents can't pay their property taxes in a timely manner due to job loss or furloughs
- Numerous businesses and retail outlets are not generating taxable sales due to COVID-19-related closures
- This situation creates a short-term cashflow problem for jurisdictions since many will experience unanticipated budget shortfalls

The Federal Reserve's Solution

- The Federal Reserve's Municipal Liquidity Facility helps local governments manage short-term cashflow problems
- The Federal Reserve will purchase up to \$500 billion in short-term notes from U.S. counties with a population exceeding two million residents and cities with more than one million
- This program provides much-needed cash to local governments to cover operating expenses over the next six months
- The Federal Reserve will monitor conditions in the municipal securities market throughout the COVID-19 crisis to see if additional measures are needed to assist local governments

Tax Anticipation Notes Explained

Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs) are notes issued by municipalities to pay current operating bills before tax revenues are received. Once the city collects taxes from residents, the money is used to retire debt. The interest income is exempt from federal income tax for the recipient -- similar to that for interest income from municipal bonds. TANs are short-term notes, issued at a discount, with a maturity period usually less than one year or a stated future date. The Federal Reserve's April 9, 2020, Municipal Liquidity Facility stipulates that TANs and other revenue anticipation notes mature no later than 24 months from the date of issuance. In a sense, the Federal Reserve views this COVID-19 relief effort as a short term, bandage-type fix for a cashflow problem that will eventually work itself out when the economy improves.

Using Municipal Liquidity Facility helps the city/county during the period for extended income tax filing; potential reductions in taxes and other revenues or increases in expenses related to or resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic; and with requirements for the payment of principal and interest on obligations relevant to the state, city or county.

¹ The Municipal Liquidity Facility is effective April 9, 2020. The Fed will cease purchasing of eligible notes on September 30, 2020, unless the Board and Treasury Department extend the program.

ACTION STEPS FOR AFFILIATE LEADERS

1. Locals in cities with populations of 1 million or in counties with populations of 2 million should contact their city/county comptroller about whether the city/county has any tax anticipation notes, tax and revenue notes or similar types of notes with maturity dates of less than 24 months.
2. Encourage the city/county to access this special purpose vehicle through the Federal Reserve. Taking advantage of the Municipal Liquidity Facility will help your city/county manage cashflow.
3. Work with your District Vice President for IAFF assistance regarding this federal program.

Alternative Non-Federal Opportunities

- **Leary Foundation** — The Leary Firefighters Foundation considers grant requests for training, equipment and technology for fire departments in the United States.
 - **Training, Equipment and Technology**
 - ◇ \$5,000-\$35,000 (occasionally larger grants)
 - ◇ To be considered for funding, first email a brief Letter of Inquiry in the body of an email to **grants@learyfirefighters.org**
 - ◇ Deadlines:
 - » August 15 — deadline to submit a Letter of Inquiry for current calendar year
 - » October 1 — deadline to submit a completed application (for invited applicants only)
 - » November 15 — final decisions made; all applicants contacted
 - » December 15 — grants awarded
- **Motorola Foundation** — For enhancing community policing relations, increase first responder effectiveness, support families of fallen first responders and improve safety education for the general public.
- **Firehouse Subs** — Firehouse Subs' mission is to impact the lifesaving capabilities and the lives of local heroes and their communities by providing lifesaving equipment and prevention education tools to first responders and public safety organizations. All requests must fall within **funding guidelines**.

Quarterly Grant Application Deadlines:

- Portal reopens for 2020 Quarter 3 Grant Applications: April 1, 2020 Portal closes Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. ET
- Portal reopens for 2020 Quarter 4 Grant Applications: July 1, 2020 Portal closes Wednesday, August 19, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. ET
- Portal reopens for 2021 Quarter 1 Grant Applications: October 1, 2020 Portal closes Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. ET
- Portal reopens January 1, 2021