



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF FOREST ENVIRONMENT (401)647-3367 Fax (401)647-3590
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To: All Fire Chiefs

From: Paul Dolan, Deputy Chief

Date: January 4, 2010

Subject: Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants

Once again we are offering the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants.

They are a 50/50 match.

Application period ends February 19, 2010.

Grants will be awarded March, 1, 2010.

Projects have to be completed by September 30, 2010.

Final paperwork by October 15, 2010

Grants amounts will be in between \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Any questions call me at 647-3367

**Grant funds available apply no later than
February 19, 2010**

Project has to be completed by September 30, 2010

January 4, 2010

VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE (VFA) PROGRAM
GRANTS REQUEST FOR PROJECTS FROM \$1000 TO \$5,000

The Division of Forest Environment, Department of Environmental Management, State of Rhode Island, in cooperation with the United States Forest Service, and the Rhode Island Forest Fire Advisory Committee are pleased to announce its cost share grants program for the 2010 year. The program is an integral part of the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program. There are \$50,000 available funds for this round of grants.

What is the purpose of the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program?

The purpose of the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program, formerly known as the Rural Community Fire Protection (RCFP) Program, is to provide Federal financial, technical and other assistance to State foresters and other appropriate officials to organize, train, and equip fire departments in rural areas and rural communities to prevent and suppress fires. A rural community is defined as having 10,000 or less population. This 10,000 population limit for participation in the VFA Program facilitates distribution of available VFA funding to the neediest fire departments.

How do I know if I am eligible?

Following are examples of eligibility requirements for use of VFA funding.

1. A single fire department serving a rural area or a rural community with a population of 10,000 or less is eligible (latest Census).
2. Area fire departments (fire districts, townships, etc.) may serve an aggregate population of greater than 10,000 as long as the service area of the fire department includes a rural area or a rural community having a population of 10,000 or less. The VFA funding must be used to benefit the rural population.
3. A single county or town with a population over 10,000 that is served by two or more fire districts operating entirely within the bounds of the county or town may qualify as long as the service area of a given fire department includes a rural area or a rural community or the population of the fire department's jurisdiction is 10,000 or less. The VFA funding must be used for the rural area.

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4. A single community with a population greater than 10,000 and having a single fire department with one or more fire stations may qualify. The fire department must have a service area that includes a rural area or community that does not exceed 10,000 populations. The VFA funding must be used only for the benefit of the rural population. Similarly a single community with a population greater than 10,000 that also provides fire protection to an adjoining rural community of 10,000 or less population by contract may also be eligible provided the VFA funding is used entirely to support the rural community.
5. A single community fire department serving a population greater than 10,000 and not providing protection to a rural area or to a rural community is not eligible for VFA financial assistance.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE -2010 GRANT PROGRAM

1. For this grant the following items or functions will be eligible

- a. Wild land personnel protective equipment
 - b. Pumps and or their equipment used in wild land suppression
 - c. Skid units
 - d. Class A foam used in wild land fire suppression.
 - e. equipment for foam application
 - f. Hand or power tools used in wild land suppression
 - g. Wild land forest fire training
 - h. Dry Hydrants
2. The application deadline is: By 4:00 PM on February 19, 2010
 3. Only Grants request from \$1,000 up to \$5,000 will be considered.
Example: (\$4,000 request + \$4,000 match = \$8,000 total project)
 4. Application must include: a completed application form with budget information, and appropriate attachments. **Submit original and 3 copies** to:

Paul Dolan, Deputy Chief
Department of Environmental Management
1037 Hartford Pike
North Scituate, Rhode Island 02857

If you have any questions, I may be reached at 647-3367 between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM from Monday through Friday. My fax number is 647-3590.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

1. The certification form must be signed by an authorized representative of the Organization/ municipality.
2. Only grant requests from \$1,000 up to \$5,000 will be considered. That translates to \$2,000 through \$10,000 projects with a 50/50 match
3. Final selections will be made by March 1, 2010.
4. Funds will be sent when the project has been satisfactorily completed with final reports received and approved.
5. Final report to include: proof via invoices that equipment, products etc. were purchased? A cancelled check copied on both sides and/or an electronic copy, if volunteer hours or municipal hours were used proof via town payroll information or sign in sheets.
6. This grant will run until September 30, 2010, projects not completed by then will be terminated.
7. Technical assistance is available throughout the application process and the project from the Division of Forest Environment. Call Paul Dolan at the Department of Forest Environment– 647-3367

Project has to be completed by September 30, 2010

JUDGING CRITERIA:

- Applications will be evaluated by members of the Division of Forest Environment and the Rhode Island Forest Fire Advisory Committee.
- Project must demonstrate that it will be used in Wild land fire suppression.

Application must be technically consistent and complete.

What exactly do I have to do to apply for this grant?

1. Be eligible as a qualifying community
2. Give us a one page narrative on what you need from the list of equipment and products we said would qualify this year.
3. Your Department are not limited to only one item, your limitation is the amount of cost share money we will award your Department.
4. Fill out a budget sheet requesting how much the total project is would be and how much you are requesting. Remember it's a 50/50 match.
5. Fill out the grant application and certification form.
6. Have 3 copies plus the original to our office 1037 Hartford Pike, North Scituate, RI 02857 by 4pm on Friday February 19, 2010.

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MATCHING FUNDS GUIDELINES:

- Minimum match – 50 % of the total project.
- Applicants may match grant funds with cash, in-kind contributions (volunteer labor, municipality/organization personnel and equipment) donations, and administrative costs directly related to the project.
- Volunteer labor may be estimated at \$20.25 per hour per person. (Per Independent Sector).
- All project expenses and matching fund/in-kind contributions (whether labor or donations or other must be fully and appropriately documented.) Instructions will be provided to successful candidates.

VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE (VFA) RHODE ISLAND - 2010

GRANT APPLICATION AND CERTIFICATION FORM

Name of applicant (community, group, organization), _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Contact Person _____ Tax ID _____

Eligible Project _____

Amount you are requesting _____

NARRATIVE – On one sheet of paper please:

1. Describe the project and explain how it meets the goals of wild land fire suppression, in your community.
2. Describe how the project adheres to the guidelines.

BUDGET – On one sheet of paper please:

1. List the budget – supplies – labor – equipment

TOTAL GRANT REQUEST – (50%) _____
APPLICANT MATCH – (50%) _____
TOTAL - (100%) _____

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ THE APPLICATION AND WILL ADHERE TO ALL RULES, REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES AND DEADLINES. I HAVE READ THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND WE DO QUALIFY TO APPLY FOR THIS GRANT.

I ALSO CERTIFY THAT I AM AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THE DECISION FOR
(Name of organization/municipality)

(Signature) Name and Title

(Printed)

