

Volunteer Fire Assistance

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The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program is a federally-funded program administered by RIDEM's Division of Forest Environment. Managed by the DFE Forest Fire Program, these funds help fire agencies meet their firefighting and emergency response needs.

Each year, federal funds are provided to the Forest Fire Program to assist towns with the purchase of forest fire equipment or to provide forest fire training.

The VFA program is funded through the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS). The objective of the VFA program is to improve the capacity and capability of fire departments in rural areas and rural communities to prevent and suppress wildfires. (A rural community is defined as having 10,000 or less population.)

VFA Grants

The federal funds provided to Rhode Island are distributed to local volunteer fire departments through a grant program.

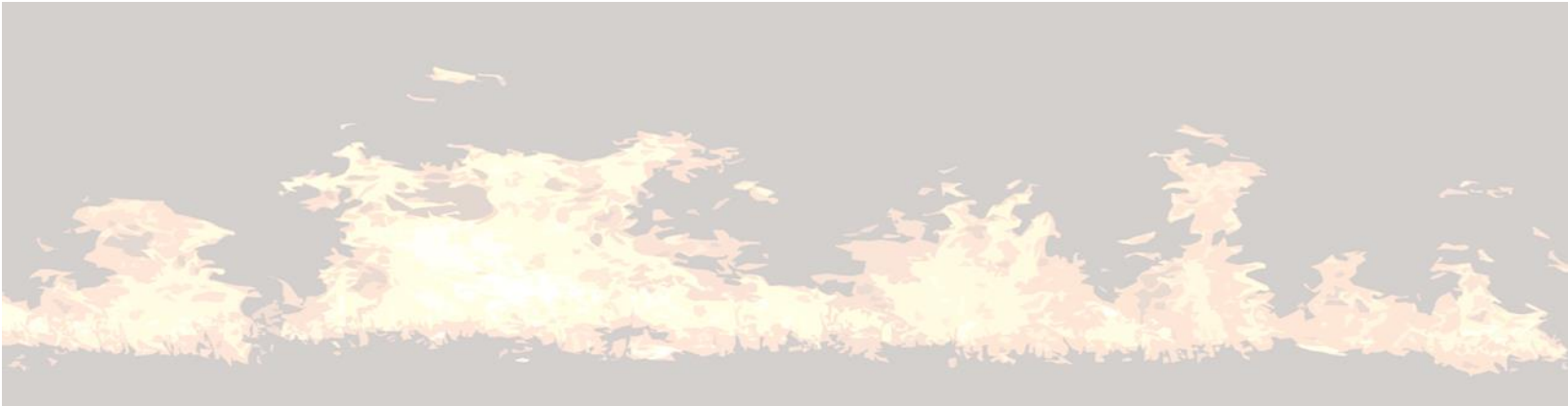
VFA grants are available on an annual basis and in 2022 applications will be made available and accepted 15 June - 31 July. Grant recipients can receive 50% reimbursement of approved costs, up to a maximum reimbursement of \$2,500 for eligible equipment items, such as Nomex clothing, pumps, hoses, tanks, fire shelters, small fire suppression equipment, personal protective equipment and dry hydrants.

Funding may not be used for:

- 🔥 Any single piece of equipment >\$5,000
- 🔥 Vehicles (trucks, cars, ATVs)
- 🔥 Capital improvements
- 🔥 Land acquisition
- 🔥 Medical equipment
- 🔥 Fire hose >2.5" in diameter
- 🔥 Equipment which is not wildland fire related
- 🔥 Extrication type equipment

NOTE: Where the total grant requests received are in excess of available funds, new applicants and those not having received an award in the past 2 grant cycles will be prioritized.





VFA Grants awarded in 2021

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Bristol | North Scituate |
| Chopmist Hill | Pascoag |
| Dunn's Corners | Potterville |
| Harrisville | Prudence Island |
| Hope-Jackson | Richmond-Carolina |
| Hope Valley | Saylesville |
| Little Compton | Warren |
| Manville | Western Coventry |

Items included:








Radios, Foam and Foam System, PPE, Hardware, Radios, Chainsaws, Skid unit parts, Pumps and accessories, Hand Tools, Nozzles, AED for brush unit, Dry Hydrant



Past Recipients Include:

- Albion, Charlestown
- Chepachet
- Cumberland
- Exeter #1
- Foster Center
- Harmony, Hianloland
- Kingston, Limerock
- Misquamicut
- Moosup Valley
- Quinnville
- South Foster, Union
- Watch Hill
- West Gloucester
- West Greenwich

Partial List of Items Eligible for Purchase with a VFA Grant

-  Jump Suits, Brush Coats, Nomex Pants, Helmets, Goggles, Gloves, Chaps, Boots
-  Indian Pump Tanks/Bladder, Float Pump, Portable Dump Tanks, Portable Pumps
-  Ax, Pulaski, Adze Hoe, Council Rake, Fire Rake, McLeod Tool, Chainsaw, Fire Shovel, Combi Tool, Fire Broom, Drip Torch
-  Nozzles, Gates/Wyes, Water thieves, Clamps, Adapters
-  Small Mop-Up Kit, GSA Mop-Up Kit, Dry Hydrant components
-  Foams, Water Gels, Applicators/Educators
-  Dry Hydrants

ELIGIBILITY: Project MUST support/benefit a rural community or defined rural area with a population ≤ 10,000

Applicant is the local rural Fire Department (population ≤ 10,000)
Name _____

OR

A larger community/county that provides contractual fire-fighting services to a rural community/area ≤10,000
Community/County applicant name _____
Rural Community/Area the project will serve _____

OR

A station in a larger community whose specific jurisdiction is a rural community/area with a population ≤ 10,000
Community/County applicant name _____
Fire Station/District name/# _____
Rural Community/Area the project will serve _____

