



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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August 18, 2010

TO: The Mayor

FROM: Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cochran".

RE: SAFER Grants Available – Applications Due September 17

Yesterday FEMA announced the availability of FY 2010 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants, which may be used to hire new and rehire recently laid-off firefighters. Funds are provided for two years, and grantees must commit to retaining newly-hired SAFER-funded firefighters for a full year after the two-year funding period. There is no requirement that those who are rehired be retained beyond the two-year period. There is no limit on salaries and benefits to be paid to firefighters, and no matching funds are required this year.

The funds also may be used to recruit and retain trained volunteer firefighters. Volunteer, paid-on-call, and combination fire departments are eligible to receive volunteer grants; career fire departments are not. There is no local cost share requirement and no maximum federal share limit for this funding.

A total of \$420 million was appropriated for SAFER this year. Departments which have received previous SAFER and Assistance to Firefighter Grants, including those which are still running, may apply for these funds. Applications are due **September 17**. Information is at <http://www.firegrantsupport.com/content/html/safer/>.