

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE FUNDING

The State of New Mexico, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), Forestry Division (Division) is now accepting Applications for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (VFA). This VFA grant is provided through emergency funds made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service to protect communities from catastrophic wildland fire. Grant funding focuses primarily on wildland fire objectives including: 1) equipping rural fire departments with wildland fire equipment; 2) organizing rural fire departments for wildland fire response; and 3) wildland fire prevention. Structural firefighting objectives are a lower priority, but EMNRD may consider them if benefit from these projects will carry over into wildland objectives.

Eligible Applicants are municipalities, counties, and tribes that service rural communities with less than 10,000 people and who can provide 10% cost-share match. EMNRD will place a strong emphasis on wildland personal protective equipment and firefighting equipment. EMNRD will give higher priority to projects that enhance local governmental entities' capabilities to safely respond to and manage wildland fires in medium/high risk areas (as identified in the New Mexico Forest Action Plan) through the response of their rural/volunteer fire departments, focusing on the wildland objectives described above. EMNRD may also consider structural fire objectives showcasing a regional benefit, although this will be given a lower priority.

- Items with an individual cost greater than \$5,000 are considered capital outlay and are not eligible for funding.
- All-terrain vehicles, utility-terrain vehicles, and firefighting boots are NOT eligible for funding.

Distribution of funding is on a competitive basis. Criteria used by fire managers to rate applications includes: clear project objectives; budget; proximity to, or response jurisdiction for, medium/high priority and medium/high hazard at risk communities; proximity to federal lands; and local government capability.

Applications may be funded at whole or in part dependent upon the total number of applications received and the ranking of the individual applications.

Potential Applicants who need assistance with the application process or who have questions on grant criteria, may contact their local Forestry Division District Office. All Applicants shall familiarize themselves with grant criteria before submitting applications.

Applications also may be downloaded from the Forestry Division website:
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/requests-for-proposals-and-grants/>

Applicants shall submit the scanned application packet to Robert Brown, EMNRD, Forestry Division Program Coordinator by 5 p.m. MST, Friday, September 30, 2022 via email at robert.brown@state.nm.us. Application packets may not be mailed, hand delivered, or faxed. No responses will be accepted after the stated date and time.