

Volunteer Firefighter Assistant (VFA) Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What percent of our staff should be volunteer firefighters to apply?

Answer: While 80% or more is the target range, paid departments are also encouraged to apply. Please review the Program Guide for complete eligibility requirements at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dfpc/volunteer-fire-assistance-vfa-grant>

Question: Can other agencies apply for this grant?

Answer: Possibly, eligibility is limited to “rural” fire departments with an active FDID# serving a community population of 10,000 or less, that report to NFIRS, and are able to provide the 50% community share (match) at the time of application.

Question: Do I need to report NFIRS fire statistics to receive this grant?

Answer: Yes, if you need assistance please call your local DFPC Battalion Chief or contact Marlinda Acevedo at 303-239-5827 or Marlinda.Acevedo@state.co.us .

Question: Can I spend more than \$5,000 on a single item if the department pays for the rest?

Answer: No, a single item may not exceed the \$4,999 dollar threshold; otherwise, that item will be considered a capital expenditure.

Question: What are eligible in-kind contributions?

Answer: Please review the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program Guide for more information on in-kind contribution guidelines. The Department will still have to show proof of payment for the total amount in order to receive 50% reimbursement. In-kind contributions and relevant documentation must occur during the grant cycle.

Question: How do I determine the Labor Rate for In-Kind Contributions?

Answer: The following location, used by the US Forest Service, has state specific information: http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

Question: Can I ask for reimbursement for items outside the grant cycle?

Answer: No, eligible expenses must occur within the grant cycle.

Question: Is there a match with this grant?

Answer: Yes, there is a 50% match with this grant, however, the department pays the total costs, initially, at 100% of purchasing equipment and/or training that is reimbursed at 50% for items approved by Peer Review once program requirements have been met.

Volunteer Firefighter Assistant (VFA) Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Question: How do I seek reimbursement for this grant?

Answer: You must send a copy of the award letter, the completed W-9, AD 1048, and Reimbursement Request form, zero invoices, and proof of payment.

Question: Can I save the grant application while in progress and return to it?

Answer: Yes, you need to fill out the initial page of the Application form, select "Next". You must complete an entire page and hit the "next button" for the form to save. You may exit out at this time and return where you left off during the application period.

Question: Can I print the grant application?

Answer: Yes, there is a print option at the end of the application.

Question: How do I know the application was successfully sent?

Answer: Once the application is submitted, a "Thank You" page appears and an email is sent thanking you for your submission.

Question: Can I see the entire application and print it to gather data before beginning?

Answer: Yes, go to the DFPC Sections/Grants page: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dfpc/volunteer-fire-assistance-vfa-grant> (Sample Application).

Question: Is there anyone that can help me if the Grant Manager is not in the office?

Answer: Yes, for help with reimbursements please contact Maryam Abarnirooe at 303 239- 4467 or maryam.abarnirooe@state.co.us. For help with other questions, please contact Chivon Spears at 303 239-5868 or chivon.spears@state.co.us.

Question: Are the reimbursement forms easily accessible?

Answer: Yes, they are available on the DFPC Sections/Grants Page: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dfpc/volunteer-fire-assistance-vfa-grant>

Question: On page 7, Planned Equipment there are only 10 spaces and we have more than 10 items. Should we attach a file?

Answer: No, this section was expanded to accommodate 20 items total with **each field required** so that a complete electronic record is submitted for the Peer Review. A *copy of the entire list* may be sent to the centralized grants email address at: cdps_dfpc_grants@state.co.us.

Question: Why are 800MHz radios restricted from the Approved List?

Answer: In the past, 800 Mhz radios did not communicate with our federal partners or our Wildland Fire Aviation resources, therefore, they have been a low priority for VFA funding.