

## Narrative Statement

2003  
Prevention Grant

## Project Description

Please provide your narrative statement in the space provided below:

The Cherryville Fire Department presently does not have a fire prevention program for senior citizens. We have actively pursued discussions during the past to speak with seniors during civic meetings. We are, however, invited to a handful of churches throughout the year to speak to seniors in our community. This is not enough exposure to teach and protect our seniors. The Cherryville Fire Department would like the support of the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to pursue the concept of ?SOS? (Seniors Offering Safety) Program.

The core component of the SOS program will be to train a group of dominant seniors in our community to perform the tasks of home inspections. These home inspections will include teaching fire safety precautions, installation of smoke detectors, and maintenance of smoke detectors, evacuation design and implementation.

Our goal will be to train, up to forty senior citizens, to be mentors of the SOS Program. These mentors will have yearly training to be kept up to date with the latest changes within the fire service. They will become more aware of the changing needs and statistics that endanger their lives. We know that lack of education and preventative measures are two of the main reasons that senior citizens die year to year due to fire.

Our estimated budget totals \$10,000 for this program. This budget will allow the purchase of a laptop computer, projector, brochures and fire department T-shirts, as well as ID badges. All the materials have been estimated with the government discounts and contracts.

The laptop and projector will be designated to the use of senior citizen fire prevention and safety. The curriculum will be delivered through power point programs, videos and Visio software to allow for drawing evacuation plans of senior citizens homes. Our fire department has already purchased the Visio software to perform this task.

We feel this type of program could have benefits that are too irresistible to turn down. The SOS Program will allow our department to have a structured curriculum to educate senior citizens about fire safety. The fact that senior citizens will participate will allow the department to gain access into homes that otherwise would not have the privilege of gaining. Since these citizens will be participating in the SOS Program the image of fire departments could be improved and trustworthier.

In closing, this program will cost \$7.69 per senior citizen within our city limits, not to mention the other 3200 seniors within our township. This is a small price to pay to start this type of fire preventative curriculum for our senior citizens. It is our hopes that the SOS Program (Seniors Offering Safety) has such success that it will spread to surrounding jurisdictions.