



State Farm® Good Neighbor Firefighter Safety Program

2026 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Below is a list of commonly asked questions to help your department navigate the State Farm Good Neighbor Firefighter Safety Program grant application process.

The 2026 application period will be open from Monday, May 4 at 12:00pm (noon) Eastern to Thursday, May 7 at 12:00pm (noon) Eastern, so departments are encouraged to gather the necessary information and supporting documentation needed for the application in advance.

A total of 150 departments will be selected to receive a \$10,000 grant to purchase equipment. Find additional application resources, including application guidance, a list of eligible items, and more, at www.nvfc.org/statefarm.

APPLICATION PROCESS & TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

When and where can I access the application?

The application form will be live from Monday, May 4 at 12:00pm (noon) Eastern to Thursday, May 7 at 12:00pm (noon) Eastern at www.nvfc.org/statefarm.

Can I fill out the application early or download a template?

No, the online application will only be available during the open application period. However, a guidance document and other resources are available to help you prepare your application and gather necessary information in advance. [View the list of available resources](#).

Please note: the online application form cannot be saved or partially completed; you must fill it out in one sitting. The application guidance is designed to help you prepare your answers ahead of time so you can copy and paste them into the application once it opens.

Can I upload documents to support my application?

Yes, there is an optional upload section for one supporting document like a vendor quote, needs assessments, or other items that will support your application and need for the grant. Do not upload your narrative – type it directly into the designated fields.

Can I still apply if I missed the deadline due to an emergency call?

No, late applications cannot be accepted for any reason, including emergency calls. To ensure fairness and consistency, the application portal automatically closes at the stated deadline and cannot be reopened. We strongly encourage departments to plan ahead and submit their

applications as early as possible during the application window to avoid conflicts with emergency responses or technical issues.

Will we be notified even if we don't receive a grant?

Yes, all applicants will receive an email once final selections are made.

How will recipients be selected?

After the application period ends, a panel selected by the NVFC will review the applications. A total of 150 departments will be chosen to receive a \$10,000 grant. To support volunteer fire departments across the nation, at least one recipient will be selected from each state with 10 or more eligible applications. The selection process is nondiscriminatory. Winners will be announced before August 31, 2026. Applicants will be notified before any public announcement is made.

 **DEPARTMENT ELIGIBILITY**

Do I have to be an NVFC member to apply for the grant?

No, you do not need to purchase an NVFC membership to be eligible to apply for the grant. State Farm will provide one-year individual NVFC memberships to the first 2,000 eligible applicants to give them access to all of the benefits the NVFC offers. The membership will be granted to the primary point of contact on the application. Learn more about what's included with NVFC membership [here](#).

Our volunteers are paid-per-call. Does our department qualify for the program?

The NVFC considers paid-per-call as volunteers for this donation program. Your department must be over 50 percent volunteer to be eligible.

Can multiple stations within the same fire district apply, or can the district apply on their behalf?

Whether multiple departments or stations apply separately or whether a town or fire district submits one application on their behalf is up to the discretion of the town or authority having jurisdiction. Multiple departments or stations may apply individually if they operate as distinct entities and each independently meets all eligibility [criteria](#). Alternatively, a single application may be submitted on behalf of multiple departments or stations if the group collectively meets the eligibility requirements. Departments should carefully consider factors such as shared budgets, resources, and response statistics, as well as which department or station has the greatest need. Coordination is strongly encouraged to avoid duplicate submissions and ensure all parties are informed.

Can EMS or rescue squads apply?

No, this grant is intended for volunteer fire departments. If your fire department includes EMS or rescue and meets the criteria (being over 50 percent volunteer, serving a population of 25,000 or less, having annual revenue under \$250,000, etc.), you may apply.

Can county fire associations or auxiliaries apply?

No, this grant is intended for volunteer fire departments. Auxiliaries or associations are not eligible.

Can departments from U.S. territories apply?

No, only fire departments located within the 50 U.S. states that are legally organized under state law are eligible to apply. Departments based in U.S. territories are not eligible.

If we have or work with a State Farm agent, will that increase our chances of receiving the grant?

No, having a relationship with a State Farm agent or associate does not influence the review or selection process. All applications are reviewed and scored based solely on the criteria outlined in the grant guidelines to ensure a fair and impartial process for every applicant. State Farm is not involved in the selection process. However, your local agent may share the application opportunity with your department and, if selected, may celebrate the award with your team as a community supporter.

Can a State Farm agent apply on behalf of the fire department?

No, a State Farm agent cannot apply on behalf of the fire department. The application must be submitted directly by the fire department. The only exception is if the State Farm agent is a member of the department; however, the agent will be applying on behalf of the fire department and representing the fire department and not State Farm. Having a State Farm agent or associate on the department does not influence the review or selection process.

 **ELIGIBLE ITEMS & PURCHASES****Does the grant have to be used for equipment?**

Yes, the grant funds must be used for equipment. Warranties and training costs specifically for the requested equipment can be included in the total grant request. If funding for equipment training or a warranty is needed, be sure to include those costs in your application as part of the items you plan to purchase with the \$10,000. Refer to the [Eligible Items](#) list for more details.

What types of equipment are eligible to purchase?

The grant can be used to purchase a wide range of equipment that supports firefighter safety and operational readiness. This includes items such as personal protective equipment, communications tools, EMS and fire suppression equipment, rescue and hazmat tools, decontamination supplies, rehab items, and basic station support. Technology like drones and tablets, as well as a variety of tools and respirator equipment, are also eligible. Training costs and warranties related to the requested equipment may also be included. Refer to the [Eligible Items](#) list for more details.

Can this grant be used as part of a larger equipment purchase?

Yes, the grant may be used to complete a larger equipment purchase. For example, if your department has been raising funds for a new apparatus and only needs \$10,000 more to complete the purchase, this grant can be used to meet that goal. However, the grant funds must

be spent within four months of being received. That means all other funds needed to complete the purchase must already be in hand. This grant is not intended to support an ongoing fundraising effort or to be held for future use. The grant cannot be used toward loan repayments or debt reduction. Prior purchases are also not eligible for reimbursement with this grant. Departments must wait until they are officially selected and notified of the award before making any purchases to avoid relying on funding that is not officially secured. Refer to the [Eligible Items](#) list for more details.

Can we use the grant to repair or upgrade existing equipment?

Yes, the grant may be used for maintenance, repairs, or upgrades to existing equipment if the work improves safety, functionality, or extends the usable life of the item and is directly related to improving firefighter safety and readiness. Examples include refitting SCBAs, replacing worn components on extrication tools, upgrading communication equipment, or servicing gear to meet current standards.

Can we purchase used or refurbished equipment?

Yes, you may apply for used or refurbished equipment. Explain your choice in the application narrative.

Can the grant cover sales tax or shipping costs?

Yes, include those expenses in your \$10,000 cost breakdown.

What is considered an unallowable expense for this grant?

The grant cannot be used for loan repayments, debt reduction, or to support ongoing fundraising efforts. It also may not be held for future use – the funds must be fully spent within four months of receipt. While the grant can help complete a larger equipment purchase if all remaining funds are already in hand, it is not intended to finance future purchases or supplement incomplete funding efforts.

REVENUE/EXPENSES AND RELATED QUESTIONS

How should we report our annual revenue and expenses to meet the requirement that "Revenue for the department's most recently completed fiscal year must not have exceeded \$250,000"?

Regardless of how your department is organized (nonprofit, government entity, etc.), your department still generates revenue and has operating expenses. Here's how to meet the requirement:

- Revenue includes all funds your department received during its most recently completed fiscal year. This may come from city, county, or town funding; fundraising; community donations; subscriptions; EMS billing/revenue recovery; or any other sources.
- Expenses include all costs your department incurred during that same period, such as staffing, facilities, vehicles, equipment, training, insurance, supplies, and administrative and operational costs.

Important notes:

- You must report gross revenue, not net. That means total funds received before expenses are subtracted.
- Only report revenue and expenses directly tied to your fire department. Do not include broader city, town, or government budgets.
- If your department includes both a city-managed budget and a separate nonprofit account, you must include both when calculating your total fire department revenue and expenses. The \$250,000 limit applies to the department as a whole, regardless of how the funds are managed or categorized.
- If you enter over \$250,000 in the Revenue field or enter \$0, your application will be automatically disqualified.

Exception:

If your department exceeded the \$250,000 revenue limit due to a one-time grant, you may still qualify. In that case:

- Enter your typical annual revenue (excluding the one-time grant) in the revenue field.
- Use the narrative to explain the one-time grant, including the amount, purpose, and that it is not expected to recur.

Do we need to provide documentation for our revenue/expenses?

No documentation is required, but you must check a box verifying the accuracy of the numbers and information provided in the application.

Is my department required to match any portion of the grant?

No, matching funds are not required. If awarded, your department will receive the full \$10,000 grant amount, which must be used as outlined in your approved application.

? CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS

If you have any additional questions, please contact Lori Shirley at lori@nvfc.org or 202-887-5700 ext. 125.