

Available only to Minnesota Fire Departments.

**Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants**

**General information:** The Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program is a matching grant program. It provides financial and technical assistance to Minnesota fire departments that protect cities or communities with a population under 10,000.

**Level of assistance:** Approximately 120 to 150 grants from $1,000 to $5,000 are awarded annually. The grants are made on a 50:50 match basis. Fire departments must use the grant money for fire protection, and comply with existing state and county rural fire protection plans.

**Priorities:** Priority is given to fire departments that have the greatest need and participate in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), or a county all hazard mitigation plan. Additional considerations include the type of project, fire runs, and number of previous years funded.

***Fire departments will not receive funding if MFIRS (MN Fire Incident Reporting System) reports are not filed with the State Fire Marshal's office each year.***

**Acceptable project examples:**

* Establishing a fire department or reorganizing an inactive fire department
* Converting federal excess property vehicles to fire control rigs
* Communications—warning systems (not sirens on buildings), pagers, radios (must be compatible with the counties' 911 system)
* Personal safety equipment (structural and wildland)
* Fire equipment (hose, nozzles, etc.)
* Rural water storage systems

**How to apply:** Grant applications are accepted from eligible Minnesota fire departments from **April 1** through **June 1** each year. [Grant application form](https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/grants/ruralfire/vfagrantapp.pdf)   Fill out the form and send a copy to:

[Shelly Greniger.](mailto:Shelly.greniger@state.mn.us) Rural Fire Programs Specialist