



# DOA Local Government Report

February 2011, Volume 8, No.1

## The Wisconsin Disaster Fund

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*DOA Local Government Report* is published biannually by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Intergovernmental Relations  
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Tornadoes, floods, and severe storms cause millions of dollars in damages. Usually, the damage is limited to a single community and the scope of the damage does not qualify for federal disaster assistance. However, communities can get some financial help through the Wisconsin Disaster Fund.

The Wisconsin Disaster Fund makes funding available to assist local and tribal governments that have been impacted by a disaster and are turned down for federal disaster assistance or do not meet the federal thresholds. The Disaster Fund is administered by Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) and was created after the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denied Wisconsin's request for disaster assistance following the Stoughton and Viola tornadoes of 2005.

For communities who are determined eligible for assistance from the Fund, the state contributes 70% and the local government applicant contributes the remaining 30% of the restoration cost.

Eligible costs under the program include debris removal, emergency protective measures and repairs to damaged road systems. Ineligible costs include: damage to buildings, equipment, dams, levees, and utilities such as power generation facilities, sewage collection systems and water treatment plants. The fund does not cover losses suffered by individuals, businesses or the agricultural sector, as well as damages that should have been covered by insurance.

In order to qualify for assistance from the Wisconsin Disaster Fund:

- A community, tribe or county must have suffered a major catastrophe such as a flood or tornado.
- A county emergency declaration must have been issued.
- Federal disaster assistance must be denied by the president
- Specified state and county per capita thresholds established by FEMA for the Public Assistance Program have not been met.
- At least one community within the county must meet the FEMA county threshold and only those communities can obtain assistance. For federal fiscal year 2011, (October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011) the state damage threshold is \$1.30 per capita and the county threshold is \$3.27 per capita.

Since 2008, the fund has provided more than \$867,000 in disaster reimbursement to communities and tribes. All requests for assistance must go through the county emergency management director to the WEM Administrator. Assistance is based on availability of funding from other federal, state or private sources, insurance coverage, and any other relevant factors.

For further information about the Wisconsin Disaster Fund, contact Joe Heinrich of Wisconsin Emergency Management at 608-242-3216 or [joe.heinrich@wisconsin.gov](mailto:joe.heinrich@wisconsin.gov).

## Fire Department Funding

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) administers the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) program. The AFG Program consists of three different funding opportunities. Information including the program guidance documents, frequently asked questions, and the link to the applications can be found at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com).

Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) – This grant opportunity offers fire departments the chance to submit three grant applications. All three applications are due at the same time. The match for this grant is between 5% and 20% depending on your jurisdiction size. The maximum amount an applicant can apply for is \$1 million.

- Operations and Safety – The Ops and Safety grant application can include requests for many things including: training, equipment (rescue tools, ladders, hose, etc.), personal protective equipment (turnout gear, air packs, etc.), modifications to facilities (sprinkler systems, smoke and fire alarm systems, vehicle exhaust systems, etc.), and wellness/fitness programs (physicals, immunizations, health screenings, etc.).
- Vehicles – Money for vehicles is limited to 25% of the total grant dollars available, competition for vehicles is extremely competitive. Departments can apply for a pumper, tanker/tender, brush truck, aerial, or quint; depending what size your jurisdiction is. Fire departments can also request all the NFPA required equipment as part of their application. The age of the vehicle, age of the total fleet, and your call volume are taken into consideration for the competitive request.
- Regional Communication Projects – Any eligible applicant, including fire departments or a nonaffiliated EMS organizations, may act as a “host applicant” and apply for a communications project on behalf of itself and any number of organizations in neighboring jurisdictions. A regional project is one in which multiple organizations serving more than one local jurisdiction benefit directly from the activities implemented with the grant funds. Regional projects should be designed to facilitate interoperability and efficiency among the participating jurisdictions. Law enforcement can benefit from this grant. However, any equipment purchased with the grant must physically be distributed to all the departments in the identified region.

AFG – Fire Prevention and Safety Grant (FPS) – FPS offers grants to support activities designed to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate incidences of death and injuries caused by fire and fire-related hazards. The match for this grant is between 5% and 20% depending on your jurisdiction size. Eligible projects include the following: general education awareness (smoke alarms, sprinkler awareness, public education, juvenile fire setter projects, etc.), code enforcement and/or awareness, and fire and arson investigation.

AFG - Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) – SAFER grants provide financial assistance to help fire departments increase their cadre of frontline firefighters or to rehire firefighters that have been laid off. The goal is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities so they may respond to emergencies whenever they occur, assuring their communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. SAFER offers grants to support activities in two categories: (1) Hiring of Firefighters and (2) Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters. It is important to check the program guidance for the required match for this opportunity as it has changed several times.

Wisconsin DNR Forest Fire Protection (FFP) Grant – (FFP) grants are available to Wisconsin fire departments and county/area fire associations. Grant funding is intended to expand the use of local fire departments to augment and strengthen the DNR’s overall initial attack fire suppression capabilities on forest fires. The FFP program is a 50/50 cost-share reimbursement grant program. Grants have a maximum award of \$10,000 for fire departments or \$25,000 for county fire associations. More information about the program can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/LR/FFP/grants.html>.

## Funding for Emergency Medical Services and First Responders

The Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program (AFG) – This grant has a limited amount of funding set aside for emergency medical services (EMS). For the purpose of this grant, EMS is defined as a public or private nonprofit emergency medical services organization that provides direct emergency medical services, including medical transport, to a specific geographic area on a first-due basis but is not affiliated with a hospital and does not serve a geographic area where emergency medical services are adequately provided by a fire department. If this definition fits first responders, then they too are eligible for the grant. Information including the program guidance documents, frequently asked questions, and the link to the applications can be found at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com).

- Operations and Safety – EMS agencies can apply for items that fall into the same categories as the fire departments: Training, Equipment, Personal Protective Equipment, Modifications to Facilities, and Wellness/Fitness Services.
- Vehicles – EMS agencies can apply for new ambulances under this grant program. The age, mileage, and call volume will all be considered for this competitive funding.

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) - Pediatric Jump Kits for Ambulances Project - The General Federation of Women's Clubs – Wisconsin ([www.gfwc-wi.org](http://www.gfwc-wi.org)) and the Wisconsin –Upper Michigan Kiwanis International Clubs ([www.wiumkiwanis.org](http://www.wiumkiwanis.org)) are partnering to accomplish an important goal – funding the nationally-known and award-winning EMSC Pediatric Jump Kit Bags for Ambulances Project. The pediatric bag is based on the Federal EMSC and State of WI Pediatric Equipment and Supplies for Basic/Advanced Life Support Ambulances lists, and a nationally recognized color-coding system. The Ped Bag is filled with supplies sized for infants and children in one organized, easily accessible, location, giving EMS providers ready access to the correct sized supplies needed to provide emergency medical services to young patient(s).

For further information, please contact your local GFWC or Kiwanis club to find out if they are participating in the project. If there is not a participating club near you, please contact Elizabeth Davy, GFWC – WI EMSC Special Projects Chair at [ESD@LCE.BIZ](mailto:ESD@LCE.BIZ) or Dick and Elaine Anderson, WI-UM Kiwanis EMS Ped Bag Leadership Team at [elaird920@wi.rr.com](mailto:elaird920@wi.rr.com).

## Funding for Law Enforcement

Wisconsin's Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) administers federal grant funds for the US Departments of Justice and Homeland Security. Since they have such a close established relationship with these federal agencies they keep track of the various grant solicitations that are available to law enforcement entities. OJA's funding opportunities page can be found at: <http://oja.wi.gov/section.asp?linkid=707&locid=97>. Grant seekers can also sign up to receive email alerts for future grant announcements.

The Community Orientated Policing Service (COPS) programs have a website where you can read about what types of projects have been funded in the past as well as sign up for news about future funding opportunities, training resources, job announcements, and other award opportunities. The web site is: <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov>.

The US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) also maintains a database of law enforcement training opportunities. The BJA Law Enforcement Training Database is a catalog of federally-funded and supported training available to state and local law enforcement officials. Each database listing includes the training provider, a course description, eligibility criteria, and contact information. You can access this database at the following web page: <http://bjatraining.ncjrs.gov/>.

## Funding for Construction

Grants and loans for public infrastructure and community facilities such as police and fire stations, town halls, and community centers are available from three key sources.

Wisconsin Department of Commerce – Community Development Block Grant for Public Facilities (CDBG-PF)  
<http://www.commerce.wi.gov/CD/CD-bcf-cdbg-pf.html>

CDBG-PF is a financing tool for general purpose local infrastructure and public building projects. Examples include libraries, community and senior centers, fire stations, health clinics, sheltered workshops, and day care facilities.

Board of Commissioners of Public Lands State Trust Fund Loan Program  
<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/section.asp?linkid=1438&locid=145>

The State Trust Fund Loan Program finances community and school projects across Wisconsin. This program can be used for public facilities such as police and fire stations, and EMS facilities.

USDA Rural Development Grant Program  
[http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF\\_CF.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF_CF.html)

The United States Department of Agriculture offers grants and loans to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Grants, loans, and loan guarantees are available for community facilities projects in rural areas and may include hospitals, fire protection, safety, as well as many other community-based initiatives.

## 2010 Census Data Release Schedule

During February and March of this year, the nation will begin to see the demographics of America take shape, when each state receives 2010 Census data. With this release, local communities will have their official population counts. The Census Bureau provides key demographic data to enable state, county and municipal governments to redraw the boundaries of their U.S. Congressional and state legislative, county supervisory, and local aldermanic districts.

The National Summary File of Redistricting Data, which includes population and housing unit counts for the United States, regions, divisions, and American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas will be released in April 2011.

Later, in May 2011, Demographic Profiles will be released containing basic data of population and housing characteristics for municipalities and the Congressional Districts of the 111th Congress. From June through August 2011 data will be released which contains population counts for ethnicity and 63 race categories at the Census block level. Population counts for many detailed race and Hispanic or Latino categories, and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes will be provided for Census Tracts.

Counts for geographic areas that cross state lines such as US regions and American Indian Areas will be released in November 2011. The Urban/Rural characteristics update of population and housing counts will be released in October 2012.

The majority of the 2010 Census Data will be available as it is released on the new American FactFinder website at <http://factfinder2.census.gov/main.html>.

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