



DOA Local Government Report

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Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services Funding

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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 <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants>.

Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG)

This grant opportunity offers fire departments and non-affiliated Emergency Medical Service providers 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. *The 2013 application period is estimated to be open during late August/September.*

- 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 organization, 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. *The 2013 estimated application period is expected to be open in late fall/early winter.*

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. *The 2013 application period is currently open and the deadline is August 30, 2013.*

For more information about these programs, please contact Dawn Vick with the Wisconsin Department of Administration at (608) 266-7043 or dawn.vick@wisconsin.gov.

Act 20 and the Wisconsin Land Information Program

Act 20, the biennial budget for state fiscal years 2014 and 2015, has wide-ranging implications for the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP). Changes to the WLIP generated by Act 20 include an initiative to create a statewide parcel map, increases in WLIP grant eligibility, and changes to the Register of Deeds document recording fee.

Initiative to Create a Statewide Digital Parcel Map

One of the most novel provisions of Act 20 affecting the WLIP is the directive for DOA to create an implementation plan for a statewide digital parcel map, which will be a collaborative effort with local governments. A complete, accurate, and continuously maintained digital parcel map would protect and grow Wisconsin's \$460 billion in taxable real estate assets, improve governmental services, and enhance the state's economic competitiveness. Act 20 directs DOA to create an implementation plan for a statewide parcel map and directs counties to coordinate their digital parcel mapping with the state.

The implementation planning process will define the end product envisioned for a five-year process of statewide digital parcel map development—a geographic information system (GIS) that meets end users' business needs, whether at the state or local levels of government, as well as those of the private sector.

The statewide digital parcel map implementation planning process will likely feature the following objectives:

- Establishment of an unimproved statewide parcel GIS layer by aggregating existing county parcel datasets and process for at least quarterly updates
- Creation of a standard for county digital parcel datasets that meets stakeholders' business needs and maximizes benefits to the public, determined through a participatory process with stakeholders
- Determination of grant eligibility criteria for strategic grants to local governments for local source data development related to the statewide digital parcel map initiative
- DOA-provided searchable format for the following information related to individual land parcels to be posted online:
 1. Property tax assessment data, as provided to the county by municipalities, including the assessed value of land, the assessed value of improvements, the total assessed value, the class of property, as specified in s. 70.32(2)(a), the estimated fair market value, and the total property tax
 2. Any zoning information maintained by the county
 3. Any property address information maintained by the county
 4. Any acreage information maintained by the county
- DOA will report to the legislature's Joint Committee on Finance by January 1, 2017 on progress in developing the statewide digital parcel map

Increase in Base Budget and Training & Education Grant Eligibility

Act 20 increases WLIP Base Budget grant eligibility from a \$50k to a \$100k retained fee threshold. DOA will award WLIP Base Budget grants for eligible projects to enable a county land information office to develop, maintain, and operate a basic land information system. Base Budget grant eligibility equals a minimum of \$100k minus the register of deeds document recording fees a county retains for land information (\$8 per document recorded)

Based on FY 2012 revenue figures, eligibility at the \$100k level would increase the number of counties eligible for Base Budget grants from 33 to 45, increasing total grants to be awarded from \$720k to \$2.3 mil.

Act 20 increases county WLIP Training and Education Grant eligibility from maximum of \$300 to a minimum of \$1,000 for every county.

Register of Deeds Document Recording Fee

Act 20 sets the register of deeds document recording fee at \$30 for all counties and repeals 59.43(2)(L), the section of the state statute that designated \$5 of the document recording fee for social security number redaction purposes. Therefore, counties can retain the \$5 portion to spend at their discretion until January 1, 2015. However, counties must still complete their redaction projects and report on their progress to DOA.

Beginning January 1, 2015, counties will submit \$7 per document recorded to the state's Land Information Fund, which will increase the Land Information Fund revenue to approximately \$8 mil per year. Much of the revenue collected will be targeted for investment at the local level, likely in the form of WLIP Base Budget and Strategic Initiative grants to develop local geospatial data, such as parcel datasets, for integration into a statewide GIS.

Counties are still enabled to retain \$8 of the \$30 fee per document recorded for land information purposes.

For more information, contact WLIP Grant Administrator Peter Herreid at (608) 267-3369 or WLIP@wisconsin.gov.

WLIP Base Budget Grant Eligibility Formula

Example: County records 5,000 documents
 $5,000 \times \$8 \text{ per document recorded} = \$40,000$
 $\$100,000 - \$40,000 = \$60,000$

\$60,000 = minimum level of Base Budget grant eligibility

WLIP Training & Education Grant Levels

≥ \$1,000 per county

\$30 Document Recording Fee

Before 2015:

\$20 County Undesignated
\$8 County Retained for Land Information
\$2 State Land Information Fund

Beginning January 1, 2015:

\$15 County Undesignated
\$8 County Retained for Land Information
\$7 State Land Information Fund

Community Development Block Grants

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides federal funding to States through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. CDBG funds are used to provide affordable housing, suitable living environments, and expanded economic opportunities for persons with low to moderate income. HUD provides federal funds to Wisconsin to be used to support CDBG efforts in our communities. In the past, you may have worked with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) for technical assistance related to your CDBG grant.

Going forward, the Department of Administration's (DOA) Division of Housing will assist you with your CDBG project and questions. DOA handles CDBG application review, contract management activities, and provides technical assistance for the grants. The Division of Housing (DOH) will be able to answer your questions to ensure that your project is meeting HUD's federal standards documented in your contract agreement.

The State of Wisconsin offers several Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) tools that can benefit your community in assisting low- and moderate-income areas, including CDBG funding for:

- Planning
- Economic Development
- Public Facilities
- Public Facility-Economic Development
- Affordable Housing
- Emergency Assistance

DOA will help answer any questions you may have about CDBG requirements. You may also call Tom Clippert at (608) 261-7538 in the Division of Housing Bureau of Community Development if you have any questions.

Wisconsin Coastal Management Grants Available

The Department of Administration is pleased to announce that the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) is seeking proposals to enhance, preserve, protect and restore resources within the state's coastal zone. Projects located in all of the counties adjacent to Lakes Superior and Michigan, with their 1000 miles of shoreline, are eligible for Coastal Management program grants.

The Department of Administration's Wisconsin Coastal Management Program annually awards approximately \$1.5 million for projects related to Coastal Wetland Protection and Habitat Restoration, Nonpoint Source Pollution Control, Coastal Resources and Community Planning, Great Lakes Education, and Public Access and Historic Preservation. Grants are awarded in a competitive process. Eligible applicants include local and tribal governments, nonprofits, academic institutions, and state agencies.

In August and September, Coastal Management Program staff will be traveling around the state presenting workshops on the grant program.

- Wednesday, August 28, 2013 in Milwaukee, 1:30 p.m. Port of Milwaukee
- Wednesday, September 4, 2013 in Green Bay, 1:30 p.m. Bay Lake Regional Planning Commission
- Monday, September 10, 2012 in Ashland, 1:30 p.m. Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

Applicants are encouraged to contact WCMP staff to discuss ideas for project proposals and application requirements. WCMP staff contact information, the Request for Proposals and the application materials are available on the WCMP website (<http://coastal.wisconsin.gov>). Applications are due November 4, 2013.

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