



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

May 13, 2021

Michigan Rural Fire Departments

SUBJECT: Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant Program

Enclosed is an application for this grant program. Basic VFA grant requirements are: 50/50 matching grant requirement, units of government must have a population of 10,000 or less, the fire department must be registered with the State Fire Marshall's office and file all incident reports.

The amount of grant funds that will be awarded to any individual project will be capped at \$4,999. This cap does not apply to project requests involving multiple departments. For these multiple department projects, the amount awarded will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Personal protection gear for wildland fire and Class A foam generating equipment projects are encouraged. However, other projects (i.e., dry hydrants, communications equipment, breathing apparatus, etc.) will be accepted. Also, countywide projects are encouraged.

To participate in this program, please complete both sides of the application and forward it to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Forest Resources Division (FRD) office in your area. A list of FRD offices, their addresses, and counties they cover are enclosed. Your department and project will be rated and placed on a priority list. Any questions related to this program may be addressed to the Forest Fire Supervisor at the FRD office in your area.

Please review the enclosed information carefully. **Applications must be EMAILED to YOUR AREA Forest Resources Division office by June 18, 2021.** Please see FRD office locations sheet attached.

Please note the following important dates in the VFA grant schedule:

June 18, 2021 Deadline for submitting applications to the FRD area office.

December 1, 2021 Approximate date of grant notification. Those fire departments receiving grants will be notified of the amount. All applicants will receive notice whether approved or denied. Purchases made before a signed grant agreement, by all parties, is in place **will not** be reimbursed.

December 16, 2021 Fire departments installing dry hydrants must submit applications for a Dredge and Fill permit to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), Water Resources Division by this date. Also, advise the local FRD office of the name and telephone number of the contact person for the project.

August 1, 2022 Project should be completed.

Departments who intend to install dry hydrants should contact EGLE, Water Resources Division, at 517-284-5567 **this fall** for permit information. Obtain any necessary easements from landowners, and be prepared to submit your permit application as soon as notification of a grant award is received.

It is expected you will use a bid process for purchases, so be prepared to begin the bid process as soon as you are notified that you received a grant. **Please keep in mind that grant guidelines do not permit actual funding of items purchased prior to the completion of a grant agreement.**

More detailed instructions will be sent to those who receive grants.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Robbins at 517-930-4294 or email robbinsk@michigan.gov. We hope you are able to take this opportunity to strengthen your fire department.

Sincerely,

Dan Laux

Dan Laux, Manager
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