



2023 Washington State Department of Natural Resources 1168 Grant Programs Guidelines and Requirements

Introduction

The 1168 Grant Programs are funded by a legislative funding allocation provided through House Bill 1168, an Act relating to long-term forest health and the reduction of wildfire dangers.

The objective of the 1168 Grant Programs is to improve the capacity, capability, and safety of rural and volunteer fire service entities that protect rural communities and play a substantial cooperative role in the suppression of wildland fires.

The 1168 Grant Programs offer two funding opportunities to all Washington State fire service entities that meet the eligibility requirements. The Operations Grant category and the Personal Protective Equipment Grant category are as described below.

The Operations Grant

Available Funding

- **Maximum grant award** per fire district/fire department is **\$100,000**
- No project match is required
- Funding is to be disbursed upon award. Terms and conditions apply and are described within grant application Section H.

Application Submittal

- The application period begins Dec 5, 2022
- Application is available on the DNR [Fire District Assistance](#) webpage
- Applications must be received by DNR no later than January 31, 2023
- Fire districts/fire departments may submit only one application
- Applications must be filled out completely, signed by an authorized fire district/fire department representative, and submitted in word or PDF format and sent to:
 - Email: fepp_assist@dnr.wa.gov

Grant Award and Term

- Successful applicants are to be notified of their grant awards in March 2023, and grant funding is to be disbursed to recipients in April 2023.

- Projects must be completed by July 31, 2024.
- Grant expenditure documentation is to be provided to the DNR within 30 days of project completion or by June 30, 2023, whichever is earlier.
- Any unspent grant funds are to be returned to DNR within 30 days of project completion or September 30, 2024, whichever is earlier.
- Extensions to the grant term or modifications to the project may be allowed at the sole discretion of DNR.

Eligibility

Fire District/Fire Department Eligibility

Fire districts/fire departments in Washington State that:

- Respond to wildland fire on private, state, tribal, or federal lands, and
- Provide service to:
 - a rural area or a rural community with a population of 10,000 or less, or
 - a community with a population greater than 10,000 that includes service to a rural community of 10,000 or less

Project Eligibility

The following projects are eligible. More than one category may be selected on grant application.

- **Vehicles:** acquisition, refurbishment, or conversion.
- **Fire Equipment:** acquisition, replacement, or upgrade. *PPE not eligible. Includes equipment suitable for wildland fire, vehicle and non-vehicle (portable pumps, slip in pump packages, water tanks, generators, pumps, reels, foam systems, chainsaws, hand tools, hose, hose fittings and related equipment)*
- **Communications:** *Includes the development of single or multi district communications systems, radios, vehicle, hand held, base stations, and repeater.*
- **Station Infrastructure/Safety Improvement:** *Improvements needed to infrastructure (helibase, water tower, etc.) and to station safety (doors, lighting, security, etc.) related to wildland firefighting.*
- **Training:** *Includes the development and implementation of programs designed for training wildland fire suppression, including instructors, facility rental, travel costs and materials. Training will be emphasized on weeknights and weekends.*
- **Fire Prevention/Education/Preparedness:** *Wildfire prevention/WRN tool kits, Firewise, 1,2,3 Notification, Fire Danger signage, HIZ assessments, prescribed fire education, etc.*
- **Incident Pre-Positioning:** *Includes costs associated with planned pre-positioning (staging) of resources to prepare for initial attack. Resources can include personnel with specific qualifications or equipment. Transport, travel costs, lodging, per diem are eligible.*

Ineligible Projects

The following project are not eligible for funding.

- Major expenditures such as building construction
- Land acquisition or building repairs
- Rural Emergency Medical Service programs
- Water line construction and hydrants
- Structural fire engines, ladder trucks, and structure PPE
- Wellness programs
- PPE offered through VFA Phase 1 or 1168 Personal Protective Equipment Grants

Prioritization

DNR will consider the following when prioritizing grant applications for funding. Additional criteria may also be utilized:

- Previous Phase 2, OPS, Equipment and PPE grant program awards and other assistance provided
- Fire overall operating budget and wildland fire operating budget
 - *Overall budget defined as budgeted allocations inclusive of both wildland and structural firefighting.*
 - *Wildland budget defined as dollars allocated only to wildland suppression within overall budget.*
 - *EMS services, other grant dollars, capital outlays and construction should not be included*
- Volunteer firefighter staff percentage
- Red carded firefighter staff percentage
- Average number of wildland fire responses annually
 - *Does not include structural, medical or rescue*
- Project type/FEPP equipment replacement
- Fire district/fire department protection includes communities within priority areas identified in the Statewide Forest Action Plan and the 10 Year Wildfire Strategic Plan

Other Information and Requirements

- **Grant funding disbursement** will occur based on District/Department signature on original application.
- **Project modifications** must have prior written approval by DNR, and in no case will DNR approve additional funding to complete the project.
- **Extension of time requests** will be considered on a case by case basis and must be approved in writing by DNR.
- **Unused grant funds** cannot be transferred to other non-funded projects, agencies or departments (see Grant Award and Term).

The Personal Protective Equipment Grant

Available Funding

- **Maximum grant award** per fire district/fire department is **\$10,000**
- No project match is required
- Funding is to be disbursed upon award. Terms and conditions apply and are described within grant application Section H.

Application Submittal

- The application period begins December 5, 2022
- Application is available on the DNR [Fire District Assistance](#) webpage
- Applications must be received by DNR no later than January 31, 2023
- Fire districts/fire departments may submit only one application
- Applications must be filled out completely, signed by an authorized fire district/fire department representative, and submitted in word or PDF format to:
 - Email: fepp_assist@dnr.wa.gov

Grant Award and Term

- Successful applicants are to be notified of their grant awards in March 2023, and grant funding is to be disbursed to recipients in April 2023.
- Project purchases must be completed no later than March 31, 2024.
- Grant expenditure documentation is to be provided to the DNR within 30 days of project completion or by April 30, 2024, whichever is earlier.
- Any unspent grant funds are to be returned to DNR within 30 days of project completion or May 31, 2024, whichever is earlier.
- Extensions to the grant term or modifications to the project may be allowed at the sole discretion of DNR.

Eligibility

Fire District/Fire Department Eligibility

Fire districts/fire departments in Washington State that:

- Respond to wildland fire on private, state, tribal, or federal lands, and
- Provide service to:
 - a rural area or a rural community with a population of 10,000 or less, or
 - a community with a population greater than 10,000 that includes service to a rural community of 10,000 or less

Project Eligibility

The following projects are eligible. More than one category may be selected on grant application.

Eligible PPE through this grant includes the following: wearable gear (*hard hats, gloves, radio harnesses, fire*

resistant clothing, headlamps, packs, boots, shrouds, etc.), fire shelters, consumables (flagging ribbon, batteries, fuzes, earplugs, foam, flashlights, etc.), chaps, belt weather kits, hand tools, tool files, etc.

- **New PPE purchase** due to applicant not meeting Phase 1 volunteer percentage eligibility criteria (70% or higher volunteer personnel percentage)
- **New PPE purchase** due to need exceeding Phase 1 grant limits (more than \$6,000 purchase value)
- **New PPE purchase** to replace gear due to “age out” or safety recalls

Ineligible Projects

The following items are not eligible for funding.

- Hose/hardware/equipment (see Phase 1, Phase 2 or Operations Grants)
- Radios/communications (see Phase 1, Phase 2 or Operations Grants)

Prioritization

DNR will consider the following when prioritizing grant applications for funding. Additional criteria may also be utilized:

- Recent organizational or operational structure changes
- Average number of wildland fire responses annually
 - Does not include structural, medical or rescue
- Fire overall operating budget and wildland fire operating budget percentages
 - Overall budget defined as budgeted allocations inclusive of both wildland and structural firefighting.
 - Wildland budget defined as dollars allocated only to wildland suppression within overall budget.
 - EMS services, other grant dollars, capital outlays and construction should not be included
- Volunteer firefighter staff percentage
- Red carded firefighter staff percentage
- Fire district/fire department protection includes communities within priority areas identified in the Statewide Forest Action Plan and the 10 Year Wildfire Strategic Plan
- PPE replacement need due to age out or safety recall
- New participation in wildland suppression or recent increase of red carded personnel

Other Information and Requirements

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- **Project modifications** must have prior written approval by DNR, and in no case will DNR approve additional funding to complete the project.
- **Extension of time requests** will be considered on a case by case basis and must be approved in writing by DNR.
- **Unused grant funds** cannot be transferred to other non-funded projects, agencies or departments (see Grant Award and Term).