

Natural Disaster and Recovery Supplement

VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANT

GUIDELINES

“Assistance to Increase Rural Fire Department’s Capacity”

Sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Forestry

1. **This is a 50/50 matching fund program.** Federal funds will pay up to 50% of approved program expenditures with the local fire department paying at least 50% or more. Cost-share assistance WILL NOT exceed the awarded funds obligated for a qualified department.
2. A restriction will be placed upon the amount of funding which may be provided to departments regardless of funding requested due to the limited federal funding for this program.
3. Local matching funds must be available at the time the application is submitted and these funds must match the federal funds dollar for dollar.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY (Guidelines 4 – 8)

*****Only those fire departments that serve a response area or community within the hurricane effected areas (See qualified parish list attached) are eligible for participation in this grant.**

All other V.F.A. mandatory requirements still apply.

4. Only departments officially recognized and authorized by RESOLUTION or ORDINANCE of the legally constituted governing body of the area served will be considered for grant funding.
5. To qualify for grant funding consideration, a department MUST have a Fire Department Identification Number (FDID), registered through the Louisiana State Fire Marshal’s Office.
6. Applying departments MUST be enrolled in and reporting any structural and/or wildland fires through the Louisiana Fire Incident Reporting System (LFIRS) or the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).
7. Only departments serving communities with 10,000 or less population counts (current census) may be considered for funding. However, “multi-community” departments may be approved even though the 10,000-population limit is exceeded within the area served, provided no single community served exceeds the 10,000-population count. A department or fire district is “multi-community” if within the official area served there exist two or more recognized communities, each of which must contribute financial support towards and combine resources for the operation of a single department serving all the communities involved.
8. Department personnel complement must be at a minimum of 80% volunteer versus 20% paid employees to be eligible for participation in this grant.

GENERAL POINTS OF INTEREST

9. Purchase(s) can be made following receipt of the award letter. Purchase(s) made prior to the date listed on the 2020/21 Natural Disaster and Recovery Supplement Grant award letter WILL NOT be eligible for cost-share assistance.
10. Examples of equipment/apparatus which may be purchased with grant funds are as follows: Nomex clothing, bunker gear, hoses, nozzles, hand tools, radios, generators, foam application equipment, slip-on pumping units, materials and labor required to outfit and equip excess military vehicles. Only fire suppression equipment or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's) may be purchased.
11. Any single item, with a total cost of \$5,000 or more WILL NOT be approved for grant funding consideration.
12. Request for funding WILL NOT be considered for the following:
 - A. Repair or construction of buildings
 - B. Land acquisition
 - C. Water lines and hydrants
 - D. Any equipment not fire related such as medical or extrication equipment.
 - E. Routine operating expenses (phone bills, utility bills, insurance, etc.)
13. Communities/departments imposing strict boundary limits which exclude rural residences or use a subscription response system will not be considered for funding.
14. Federal auditors require all non-expendable property purchased under the program having a value of \$300 or more and a useful life of more than one year be marked and identified as property acquired under Section 7, Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978. Departments shall maintain records on these cost-shared items and approval must be secured prior to any future disposal of these items.
15. Only the original application with an original signature will be accepted. Faxed or e-mail applications will not be accepted.
16. If funds are approved for your department, they must be SPENT BY THE DISBURSEMENT REPORT'S DUE DATE. If cost-share assistance funds are not spent by that date, your department may lose that portion of the funds.
17. All purchases acquired under the Natural Disaster and Recovery Supplement grant must be verified by:
 - a photocopy of check, credit card, etc. used to purchase the equipment along with the item(s) invoice.
18. Mail the completed ORIGINAL application to:
LDAF - Forestry
Attention: VFA – N.D.R.S. Grant
5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 6000
Baton Rouge, LA. 70806
19. Applications must be received at this office by: 4:30 p.m., July 1, 2024. Any application received after this date will not be considered for funding; therefore, it is suggested that 5 - 7 weekdays be allowed for mailing.

TIMELINE

- March 1, 2024: Natural Disaster and Recovery Supplement grant applications and related materials available for download and submission
- July 1, 2024: Completed applications must arrive at the Office of Forestry, Baton Rouge Headquarters
- Sept. 1, 2024: Applicants are notified of their “Approval and Cost-share Award” or “Disapproval” status by letter
- March 1, 2025: Deadline for completed Natural Disaster and Recovery Supplement Disbursement Reports, along with supporting documentation to arrive at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

If additional information regarding the Natural Disaster and Recovery Supplemental grant is required, please contact Matt Polk or Robbie Harris at ph: 225-925-4500 or email: ForestProtection@ldaf.state.la.us

Eligible Parishes for the Natural Disaster and Recovery Supplement Grant

(Parishes impacted by Hurricanes Zeta, Delta, Laura and Ida)

Acadia	Allen	Ascension
Assumption	Beauregard	Caddo
Calcasieu	Cameron	East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana	Grant	Iberia
Iberville	Jackson	Jefferson
Jefferson Davis	Lafayette	Lafourche
LaSalle	Lincoln	Livingston
Morehouse	Natchitoches	Orleans
Ouachita	Plaquemine	Point Coupee
Rapides	Sabine	St. Bernard
St. Charles	St. Helena	St. James
St. John the Baptist	St. Landry	St. Martin
St. Mary	St. Tammany	Tangipahoa
Terrebonne	Vermillion	Vernon