pennsylvania
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER

ATTENTION: PRESIDENT/CHIEF/CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On behalf of Governor Shapiro, State Fire Commissioner Thomas Cook is pleased to announce the 2026-27 Fire Company, Emergency Medical Services Company Grant Program.

The Commissioner invites all Fire and Rescue companies, and Emergency Medical Services throughout Pennsylvania to submit a grant application for the Fiscal Year 2026-27. The on-line application period will begin the first full week of September 2026 and will remain open for 45 days. Exact dates and times will be listed on our website closer to the grant opening.

Fire and Rescue companies, and Emergency Medical Services may apply for a grant in up to two of the eight eligible program categories. The 2026-27 Program Guidelines will be available for download on the OSFC webpage at www.pa.gov/services/osfc/fire-co-ems-grant closer to the grant opening. Volunteer fire companies that also provide emergency medical service are eligible to apply for both a fire company grant and emergency medical service grant.

Requests for funding for a combination of up to two projects in the following eligible categories may be submitted for consideration with each grant application:

1. Construction and renovation of facilities and purchase or repair of fixtures and furnishings, office equipment, and support services necessary to maintain or improve the capability of the company to provide fire, ambulance, or rescue services OR debt reduction associated with project type A.
2. Repair of firefighting, ambulance, or rescue equipment OR purchase thereof.
3. Debt reduction associated with project type B above.
4. Training and certification of members.
5. Education of the general public regarding fire prevention and community risk reduction
6. **Career Fire Departments ONLY –** any regular wage costs for personnel or overtime costs associated with backfilling positions while firefighters are attending training.
7. Recruitment and retention, including, but not limited to, volunteer firefighter length of service award programs and programs for minors.
8. Construction Savings Account **Fire Companies ONLY** – A fire company may apply for a grant for the purpose of constructing a new facility. The grant funds shall be deposited into a Construction Savings Account. The account will be administered by the Commissioner. A fire company may only apply for a grant for up to 5 years.

Fire company grant awards will be calculated using a basic award which will be a portion of the applicant's grant request (the amount of this basic award will be a predetermined, standard amount for all applicants based on the total amount of the grant requests and the grant funds available), plus an additional award representing all or a portion of the remainder of their request which will be determined by applying an award factor based on bonus points as described in the program guidelines.

If necessary, the “additional award” portion of the grant will be prorated so that total grant awards do not exceed the total grant funds available. Fire company grants to individual fire companies shall not exceed $20,000 and be no less than $2,500.

Grant awards to emergency medical services will be prorated so that total grant awards do not exceed the total grant funds available. Volunteer ambulance service grants to individual volunteer ambulance services shall not exceed $15,000 and no less than $2,500.

An organization wishing to apply for this year's grant but has not fulfilled the requirement to submit a Final Report documenting the expenditures of funds they received in the 2025-26 grant year, by 4:00 pm on September 1, 2026 will not be permitted to submit a grant application for the 2026-27 grant year. Any organization that hasn't submitted a completed final report for grant years prior to 2025-26 is also prohibited from applying for the 2026-27 grant until the final report(s) is submitted and is complete.

In the Firefighter certification section of the application, we will ask that you provide the last four numbers of the individual's social security number, along with their first and last name. **A certified member can only be used in one grant application regardless of the number of certifications the individual holds.** If a member's certification cannot be verified, they will need to email a copy of their certificate to verify their certification.

Any company which is not current with reporting their incidents through July 31, 2026 will not be permitted to submit a grant application for the 2026-27 grant cycle unless they are brought current prior to the application submission deadline.

Fire and Rescue – To be awarded a grant your company MUST be actively reporting to PennFIRS monthly and MUST continue to actively report to PennFIRS monthly throughout the years of the grant program. **If your company is non-compliant with reporting to PennFIRS, it WILL NOT be awarded a grant.**

- Fire and Rescue companies shall have actively responded to at least 15 fire or rescue emergencies during the previous calendar year.
- Fire companies shall submit a completed application and shall submit a copy of their application to the municipality where the fire company is located.
- EMS companies shall have actively responded to at least 15 emergency services calls in the previous calendar year and be officially recognized by the municipality as the primary EMS provider.

IMPORTANT GRANT PROGRAM REMINDERS

All final reports (including all supporting documents) must be submitted electronically via your grant application.

Grant Agreements for the 2026-27 grant cycle must be electronically signed and submitted to the OSFC by May 31, 2027.

Please see the 2026-27 Grant Guidelines for all updates

The Program e-Grant application and final reporting is intended to make the grant application/award process easier for everyone concerned. On-line grant help is available throughout the application process by clicking on the "**Application Help**" link. We suggest that you access the instructions and study them before beginning your grant application.

Information regarding your grant application will be emailed to your designated contact person via the e-mail address listed in your grant application. **It is extremely important that you keep your contact information current in this e-Grant system**. Use the "**My Profile**" link on the Application Main Menu page to **update your contact information so that you are notified of any changes regarding your application's status.**