

The top of the page features a stylized American flag on the left and a bald eagle in flight on the right, set against a dark blue background with a red horizontal line below.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

***Grant Programs Directorate
Grant Development and Administration Division***

ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM

**Report on Fiscal Year 2006
Staffing for Adequate Fire
and Emergency Response Grants**



FEMA

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SAFER Grant Program Summary

The purpose of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program is to award grants directly to volunteer, career, and combination fire departments to help them increase their cadre of firefighters. Ultimately, the goal is for SAFER grantees to enhance the ability of fire departments to attain 24-hour staffing, thereby assuring that their communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

The SAFER grant program was introduced in September 2005 under the authority of the Federal Fire Protection and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. §§ 2229 et seq.), as amended. SAFER grants have a 5-year period of performance, and therefore, the full impact of the grants on the fire service community cannot be measured until 2010.

In fiscal year (FY) 2006, Congress appropriated \$108.9 million to fund the second year of the grant program.¹ Grant funds for 2006 were awarded through September 30, 2007.

The SAFER grants have two activities that will help grantees attain this goal:

- (1) Hiring of Firefighters
- (2) Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters

The Hiring of Firefighters Activity provides 5-year grants to help fire departments pay a portion of the salaries of newly hired firefighters. These newly hired positions must be in addition to the grantees' currently authorized and funded active firefighter positions. Grantees must maintain their original number of funded firefighter positions, as stated in their grant applications, as well as the newly awarded firefighter positions throughout the entire 5-year period of performance. If they do not maintain all of these positions, they risk losing part of or all of their grants.

Volunteer, career, and combination fire departments are all eligible to apply for assistance in hiring new firefighters. To obtain a grant to hire new firefighters, the fire department agrees to match an increasing proportion of the salary of the newly funded position(s) over a 4-year period; in the fifth year of the grant, the awardee must absorb the entire cost of any grant-funded positions.

The Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity creates a net increase in the number of trained, certified, and competent firefighters capable of responding to the type of emergencies most likely to occur within a fire department's geographic response area. The focus is the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters who are involved with or trained in firefighting and emergency response operations. There is no requirement for matching funds

¹ Congress placed a government-wide rescission (1 percent) on all appropriations for FY 2006. This rescission resulted in a reduction of the SAFER appropriation from \$110 million to \$108.9 million.

for this activity. However, applicants should demonstrate that the Federal grants will realize significant benefits to their organizations and communities.

SAFER Applications for FY 2006

Although SAFER funding was increased in FY 2006 over FY 2005, the number of submitted applications fell from 2,985 submitted in 2005 to 1,728 in 2006. The majority (61 percent) of submitted applications sought assistance for hiring new firefighters. Applicants seeking recruitment and retention assistance made up only 32 percent of applicants. Applicants seeking both hiring and recruitment assistance represented more than 6 percent of submitted applications.

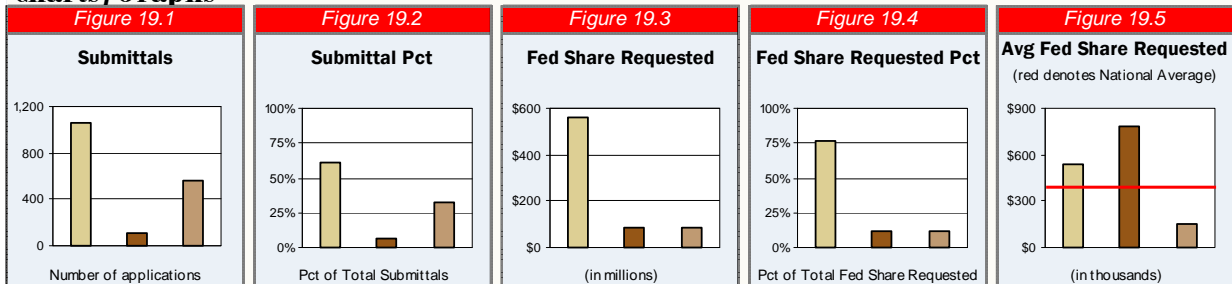
Tables 19 and 20 and Figures 19.1 through 20.4, below provide a comprehensive breakdown of the number of applications received by activity and the amount of Federal funds requested per application.

Applications Submitted by Program Area

Table 19

Legend	Program Name	Total Applications Submitted	% Total	Total Federal Share Requested	% Total	Average Federal Share Requested
	Hiring	1,055	61.1%	\$562,959,153	76.7%	\$533,611
	Hiring and Recruitment	111	6.4%	\$87,014,283	11.8%	\$783,912
	Recruitment	562	32.5%	\$84,458,621	11.5%	\$150,282
TOTAL		1,728	100.0%	\$734,432,057	100.0%	\$425,019

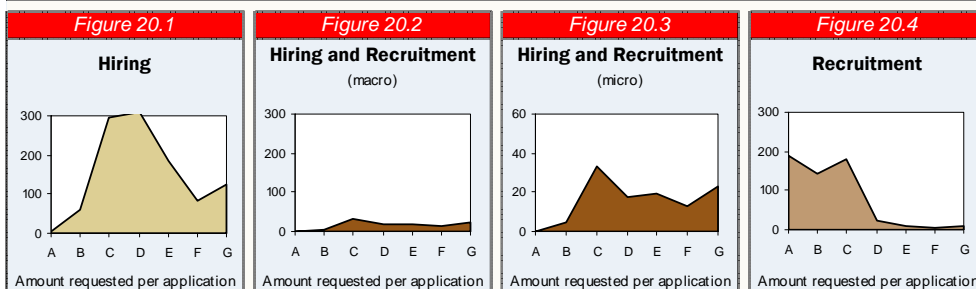
Charts/Graphs



Federal Share Requested per Submittal

Table 20

Legend	Request Per Submittal	Hiring	Hiring and Recruitment	Recruitment	Total
A	Less than \$50,000	4		189	193
B	Between \$50,000 and \$99,999	58	5	142	205
C	Between \$100,000 and \$299,999	294	33	180	507
D	Between \$300,000 and \$499,999	309	18	24	351
E	Between \$500,000 and \$749,999	183	19	11	213
F	Between \$750,000 and \$999,999	82	13	6	101
G	\$1,000,000 or more	125	23	10	158
TOTAL		1,055	111	562	1,728



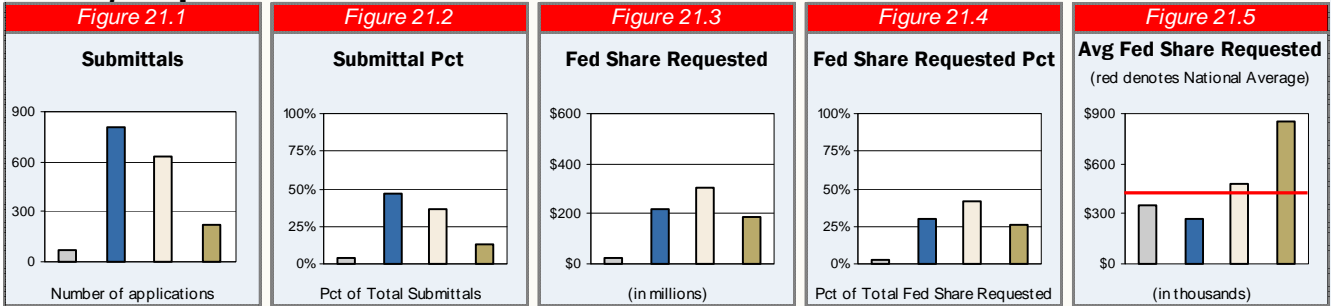
Tables 21 and 22 and Figures 21.1 through 22.5 reflect the statistics on SAFER funding requests by service area and amount requested per application.

Applications Submitted by Service Area

Table 21

Legend	Service Area	Total Applications Submitted	% Total	Total Federal Share Requested	% Total	Average Federal Share Requested
	N/A	67	3.9%	\$23,362,863	3.2%	\$348,699
	Rural	805	46.6%	\$219,456,405	29.9%	\$272,617
	Suburban	635	36.7%	\$302,751,554	41.2%	\$476,774
	Urban	221	12.8%	\$188,861,235	25.7%	\$854,576
TOTAL		1,728	100.0%	\$734,432,057	100.0%	\$425,019

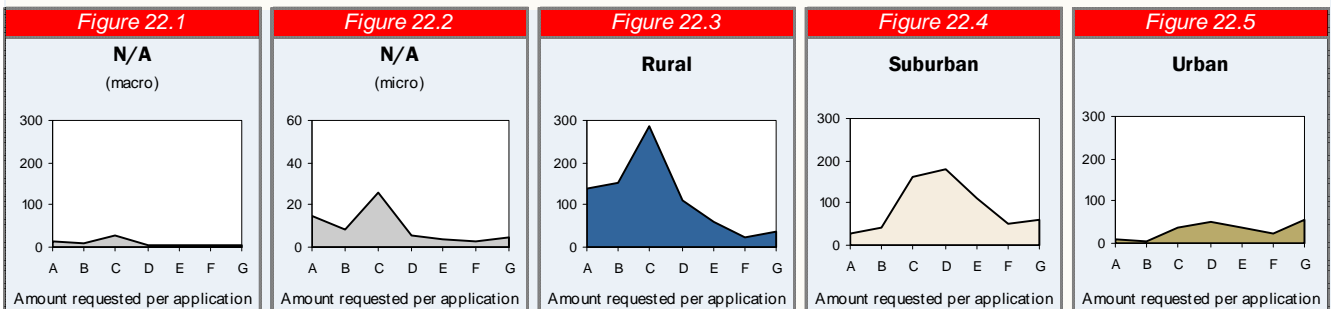
Charts/Graphs



Federal Share Requested per Submittal

Table 22

Legend	Request Per Submittal	N/A	Rural	Suburban	Urban	Total
A	Less than \$50,000	15	139	30	9	193
B	Between \$50,000 and \$99,999	8	151	42	4	205
C	Between \$100,000 and \$299,999	26	284	160	37	507
D	Between \$300,000 and \$499,999	6	111	181	53	351
E	Between \$500,000 and \$749,999	4	58	112	39	213
F	Between \$750,000 and \$999,999	3	25	49	24	101
G	\$1,000,000 or more	5	37	61	55	158
TOTAL		67	805	635	221	1,728



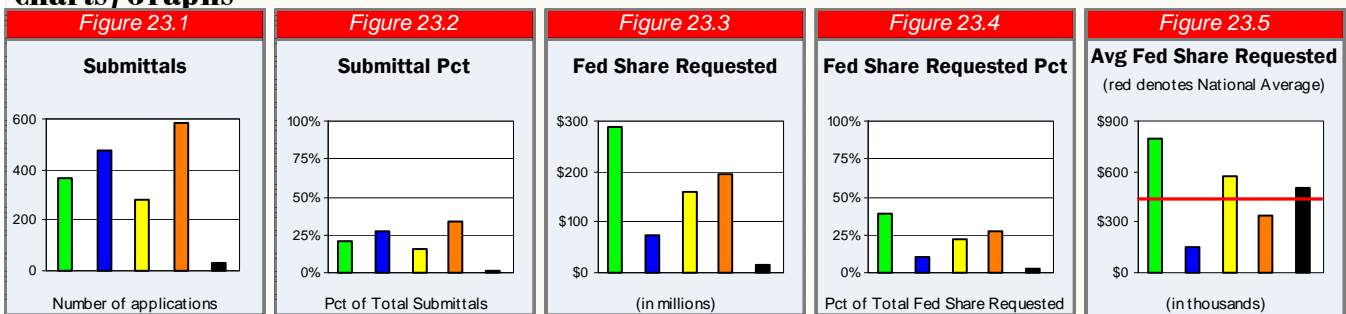
Tables 23 and 24 and Figures 23.1 through 24.5 reflect the statistics on SAFER funding requests by department type.

Applications Submitted by Department Type

Table 23

Legend	Department Type	Total Applications Submitted	% Total	Total Federal Share Requested	% Total	Average Federal Share Requested
	All Paid/Career	364	21.1%	\$289,495,622	39.4%	\$795,318
	All Volunteer	473	27.4%	\$74,468,551	10.1%	\$157,439
	Combination (Majority Paid/Career)	277	16.0%	\$158,371,453	21.6%	\$571,738
	Combination (Majority Volunteer)	581	33.6%	\$195,688,284	26.6%	\$336,813
	Interest Organization	33	1.9%	\$16,408,147	2.2%	\$497,217
TOTAL		1,728	100.0%	\$734,432,057	100.0%	\$425,019

Charts/Graphs



Federal Share Requested per Submittal

Table 24

Legend	Request Per Submittal	All Paid/Career	All Volunteer	Combination (Majority Paid/Career)	Combination (Majority Volunteer)	Interest Organization	Total
A	Less than \$50,000	1	149	3	32	8	193
B	Between \$50,000 and \$99,999	2	129	7	66	1	205
C	Between \$100,000 and \$299,999	33	147	69	246	12	507
D	Between \$300,000 and \$499,999	115	23	93	116	4	351
E	Between \$500,000 and \$749,999	85	9	56	61	2	213
F	Between \$750,000 and \$999,999	43	5	19	32	2	101
G	\$1,000,000 or more	85	11	30	28	4	158
TOTAL		364	473	277	581	33	1,728

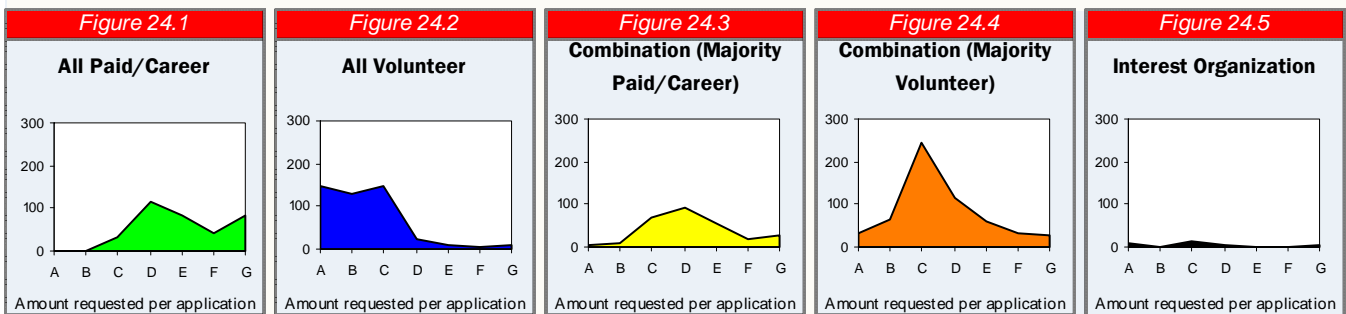


Table 25 depicts a comprehensive breakdown of SAFER applications by State and amounts requested.

Table 25					
State	APPLICATIONS		TOTAL FEDERAL SHARE		AVERAGE FEDERAL SHARE
	Submittals	%Total	Total Amount Requested	%Total	Average Amount Requested
Alabama	56	3.2%	\$21,535,852	2.9%	\$384,569
Alaska	10	0.6%	\$1,905,164	0.3%	\$190,516
Arizona	48	2.8%	\$27,867,477	3.8%	\$580,572
Arkansas	27	1.6%	\$11,624,662	1.6%	\$430,543
California	83	4.8%	\$38,158,615	5.2%	\$459,742
Colorado	31	1.8%	\$15,613,652	2.1%	\$503,666
Connecticut	21	1.2%	\$6,451,986	0.9%	\$307,237
Delaware	2	0.1%	\$377,200	0.1%	\$188,600
Florida	90	5.2%	\$81,423,474	11.1%	\$904,705
Georgia	54	3.1%	\$39,558,209	5.4%	\$732,559
Hawaii	1	0.1%	\$1,552,500	0.2%	\$1,552,500
Idaho	16	0.9%	\$6,548,437	0.9%	\$409,277
Illinois	82	4.7%	\$27,850,060	3.8%	\$339,635
Indiana	33	1.9%	\$9,029,997	1.2%	\$273,636
Iowa	15	0.9%	\$2,050,974	0.3%	\$136,732
Kansas	20	1.2%	\$5,736,690	0.8%	\$286,835
Kentucky	44	2.5%	\$12,537,571	1.7%	\$284,945
Louisiana	26	1.5%	\$9,896,822	1.3%	\$380,647
Maine	15	0.9%	\$2,762,681	0.4%	\$184,179
Maryland	26	1.5%	\$30,138,013	4.1%	\$1,159,154
Massachusetts	50	2.9%	\$19,264,122	2.6%	\$385,282
Michigan	30	1.7%	\$7,545,153	1.0%	\$251,505
Minnesota	15	0.9%	\$4,589,700	0.6%	\$305,980
Mississippi	32	1.9%	\$12,672,357	1.7%	\$396,011
Missouri	53	3.1%	\$15,484,295	2.1%	\$292,157
Montana	13	0.8%	\$2,602,588	0.4%	\$200,199
Nebraska	11	0.6%	\$4,248,995	0.6%	\$386,272
Nevada	12	0.7%	\$11,643,005	1.6%	\$970,250
New Hampshire	12	0.7%	\$3,956,549	0.5%	\$329,712
New Jersey	65	3.8%	\$32,050,107	4.4%	\$493,079
New Mexico	15	0.9%	\$8,544,891	1.2%	\$569,659
New York	73	4.2%	\$24,432,448	3.3%	\$334,691
North Carolina	75	4.3%	\$28,100,483	3.8%	\$374,673
North Dakota	7	0.4%	\$3,582,899	0.5%	\$511,843
Northern Marianas	1	0.1%	\$1,365,032	0.2%	\$1,365,032
Ohio	57	3.3%	\$19,291,515	2.6%	\$338,448
Oklahoma	23	1.3%	\$8,882,615	1.2%	\$386,201
Oregon	32	1.9%	\$6,875,261	0.9%	\$214,852
Pennsylvania	97	5.6%	\$18,140,089	2.5%	\$187,011
Rhode Island	6	0.3%	\$2,164,610	0.3%	\$360,768
South Carolina	29	1.7%	\$11,263,862	1.5%	\$388,409
South Dakota	9	0.5%	\$3,258,607	0.4%	\$362,067
Tennessee	37	2.1%	\$18,768,137	2.6%	\$507,247
Texas	116	6.7%	\$52,094,229	7.1%	\$449,088
Utah	19	1.1%	\$7,978,650	1.1%	\$419,929
Vermont	5	0.3%	\$982,932	0.1%	\$196,586
Virginia	31	1.8%	\$22,035,284	3.0%	\$710,816
Washington	67	3.9%	\$19,267,766	2.6%	\$287,579
West Virginia	10	0.6%	\$1,604,853	0.2%	\$160,485
Wisconsin	26	1.5%	\$9,120,987	1.2%	\$350,807
TOTAL	1,728	100.0%	\$734,432,057	100.0%	\$425,019

SAFER Awards for FY 2006

SAFER grants were awarded to fire departments that were recognized for their hiring and staff recruitment needs.² The Federal dollars awarded for FY 2006 totaled more than \$104 million.

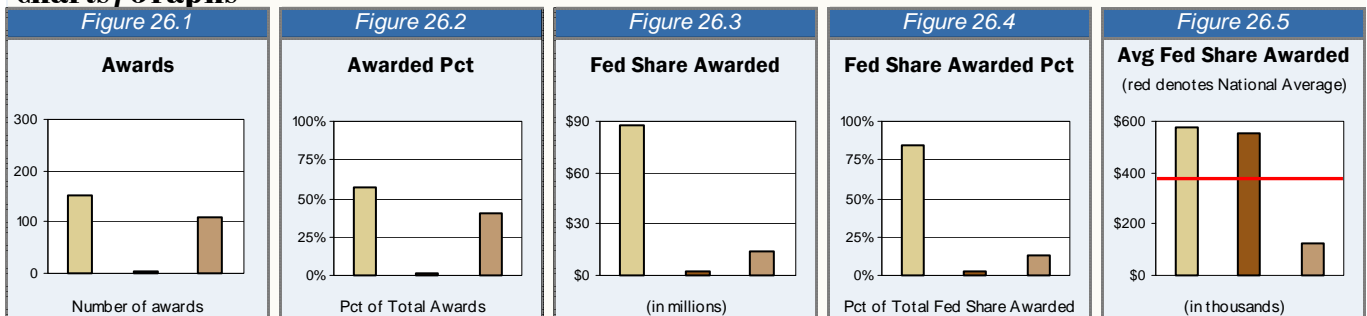
Tables 26 and 27 and Figures 26.1 through 27.4 reflect the statistics on SAFER awards by activity.

Awards by Program Area

Table 26

Legend	Program Name	Total Awards	% Total	Total Federal Share Awarded	% Total	Average Federal Share Awarded
	Hiring	152	57.4%	\$87,696,601	84.3%	\$576,951
	Hiring and Recruitment	5	1.9%	\$2,751,741	2.6%	\$550,348
	Recruitment	108	40.8%	\$13,555,126	13.0%	\$125,510
TOTAL		265	100.0%	\$104,003,468	100.0%	\$392,466

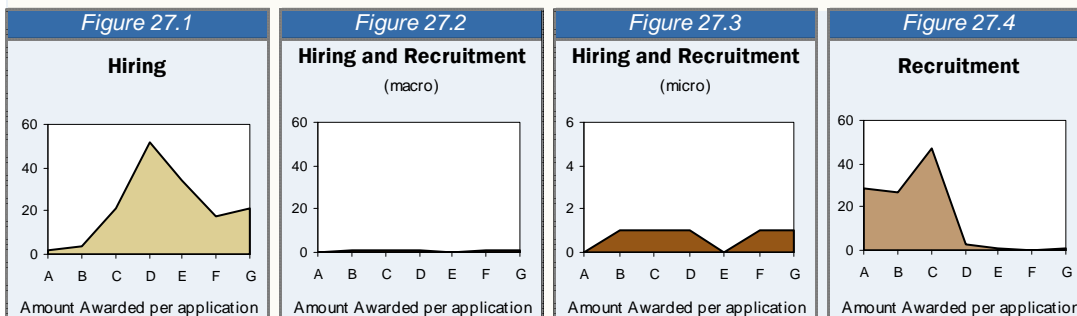
Charts/Graphs



Federal Share Awarded per Submittal

Table 27

Legend	Fed Share Awarded	Hiring	Hiring and Recruitment	Recruitment	Total
A	Less than \$50,000	2		29	31
B	Between \$50,000 and \$99,999	4	1	27	32
C	Between \$100,000 and \$299,999	21	1	47	69
D	Between \$300,000 and \$499,999	52	1	3	56
E	Between \$500,000 and \$749,999	34		1	35
F	Between \$750,000 and \$999,999	18	1		19
G	\$1,000,000 or more	21	1	1	23
TOTAL		152	5	108	265



² By statute, career departments were not eligible to receive assistance under the Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Activity.

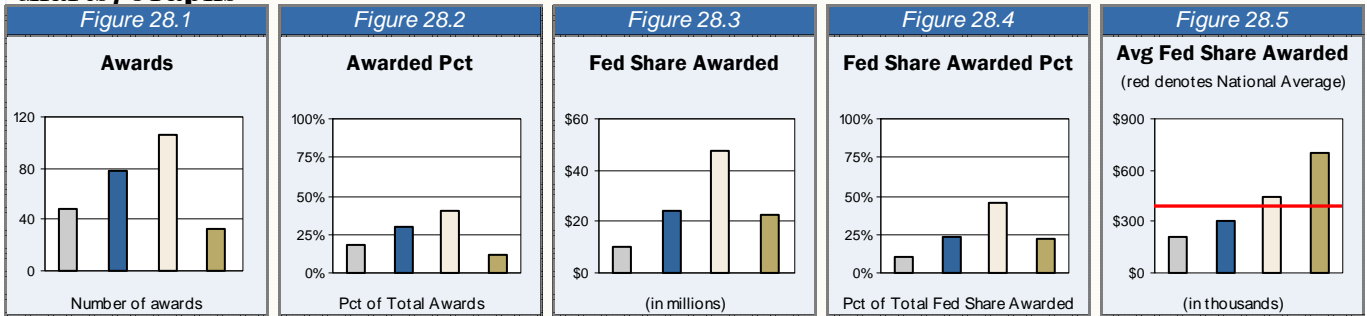
Tables 28 and 29 and Figures 28.1 through 29.4 reflect the statistics on SAFER awards by service area.

Awards by Service Area

Table 28

Legend	Service Area	Total Awards	% Total	Total Federal Share Awarded	% Total	Average Federal Share Awarded
	N/A	49	18.5%	\$10,327,050	9.9%	\$210,756
	Rural	78	29.4%	\$23,928,541	23.0%	\$306,776
	Suburban	106	40.0%	\$47,251,545	45.4%	\$445,769
	Urban	32	12.1%	\$22,496,332	21.6%	\$703,010
TOTAL		265	100.0%	\$104,003,468	100.0%	\$392,466

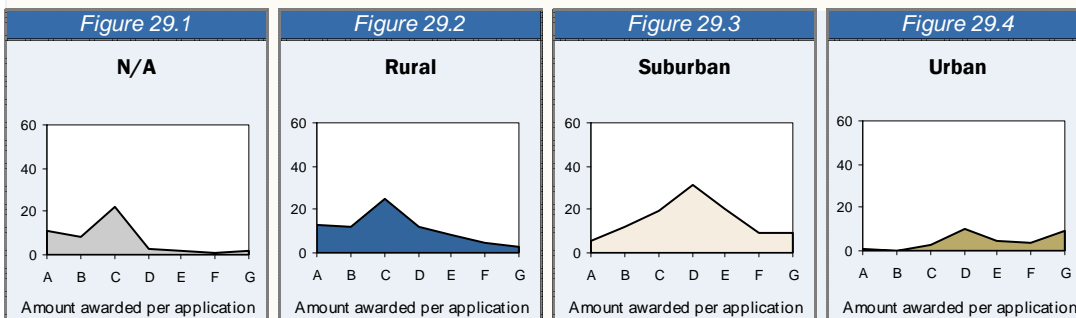
Charts/Graphs



Federal Share Awarded per Submittal

Table 29

Legend	Fed Share Awarded	N/A	Rural	Suburban	Urban	Total
A	Less than \$50,000	11	13	6	1	31
B	Between \$50,000 and \$99,999	8	12	12		32
C	Between \$100,000 and \$299,999	22	25	19	3	69
D	Between \$300,000 and \$499,999	3	12	31	10	56
E	Between \$500,000 and \$749,999	2	8	20	5	35
F	Between \$750,000 and \$999,999	1	5	9	4	19
G	\$1,000,000 or more	2	3	9	9	23
TOTAL		49	78	106	32	265



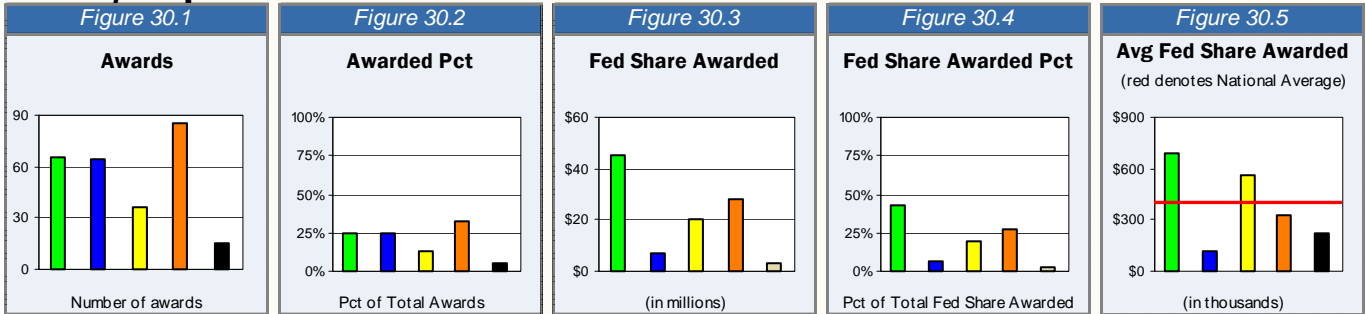
Tables 30 and 31 and Figures 30.1 through 31.5 reflect the statistics on SAFER awards by department type.

Awards by Department Type

Table 30

Legend	Department Type	Total Awards	% Total	Total Federal Share Awarded	% Total	Average Federal Share Awarded
	All Paid/Career	65	24.5%	\$45,091,889	43.4%	\$693,721
	All Volunteer	64	24.2%	\$7,370,261	7.1%	\$115,160
	Combination (Majority Paid/Career)	36	13.6%	\$20,023,122	19.3%	\$556,198
	Combination (Majority Volunteer)	85	32.1%	\$28,145,862	27.1%	\$331,128
	Interest Organization	15	5.7%	\$3,372,334	3.2%	\$224,822
TOTAL		265	100.0%	\$104,003,468	100.0%	\$392,466

Charts/Graphs



Federal Share Awarded per Submittal

Table 31

Legend	Fed Share Awarded	All Paid/Career	All Volunteer	Combination (Majority Paid/Career)	Combination (Majority Volunteer)	Interest Organization	Total
A	Less than \$50,000	1	19	1	6	4	31
B	Between \$50,000 and \$99,999		20	1	10	1	32
C	Between \$100,000 and \$299,999	3	22	5	31	8	69
D	Between \$300,000 and \$499,999	24	1	12	18	1	56
E	Between \$500,000 and \$749,999	14	1	8	12		35
F	Between \$750,000 and \$999,999	8	1	4	6		19
G	\$1,000,000 or more	15		5	2	1	23
TOTAL		65	64	36	85	15	265

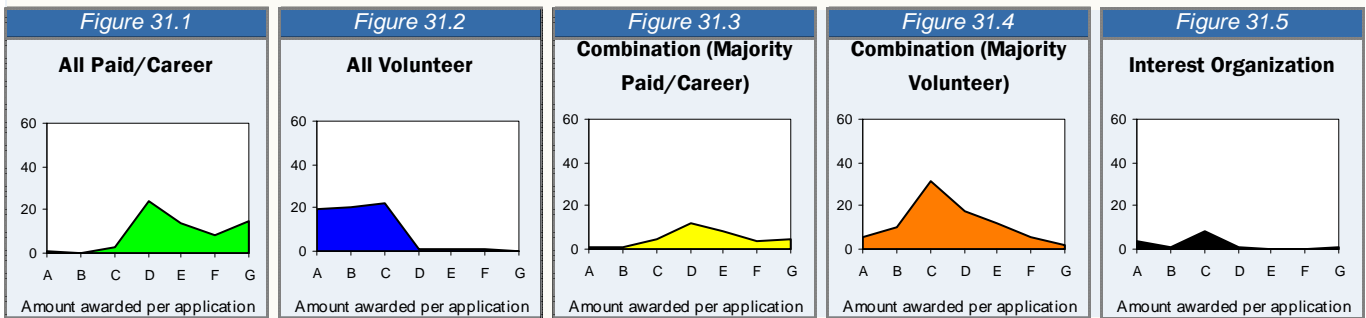


Table 32 depicts a comprehensive breakdown of SAFER grant awards by State and the average amount awarded.

Table 32					
State	AWARDS		TOTAL FEDERAL SHARE		AVERAGE FEDERAL SHARE
	Awarded	%Total	Total Amount Awarded	%Total	Average Amount Awarded
Alabama	10	3.8%	\$6,199,594	6.0%	\$619,959
Alaska	1	0.4%	\$205,250	0.2%	\$205,250
Arizona	5	1.9%	\$3,559,640	3.4%	\$711,928
Arkansas	4	1.5%	\$1,820,101	1.8%	\$455,025
California	11	4.2%	\$5,212,069	5.0%	\$473,824
Colorado	8	3.0%	\$3,479,960	3.3%	\$434,995
Connecticut	3	1.1%	\$190,750	0.2%	\$63,583
Delaware	1	0.4%	\$134,950	0.1%	\$134,950
Florida	11	4.2%	\$8,398,342	8.1%	\$763,486
Georgia	7	2.6%	\$2,085,460	2.0%	\$297,923
Idaho	1	0.4%	\$621,000	0.6%	\$621,000
Illinois	14	5.3%	\$4,463,077	4.3%	\$318,791
Indiana	2	0.8%	\$99,780	0.1%	\$49,890
Iowa	3	1.1%	\$144,288	0.1%	\$48,096
Kansas	1	0.4%	\$45,000	0.0%	\$45,000
Kentucky	6	2.3%	\$2,890,165	2.8%	\$481,694
Louisiana	5	1.9%	\$3,078,577	3.0%	\$615,715
Maryland	5	1.9%	\$1,862,095	1.8%	\$372,419
Massachusetts	6	2.3%	\$2,079,532	2.0%	\$346,589
Michigan	4	1.5%	\$592,435	0.6%	\$148,109
Minnesota	4	1.5%	\$882,050	0.8%	\$220,513
Mississippi	4	1.5%	\$594,063	0.6%	\$148,516
Missouri	10	3.8%	\$3,547,091	3.4%	\$354,709
Montana	3	1.1%	\$255,090	0.2%	\$85,030
Nebraska	3	1.1%	\$873,420	0.8%	\$291,140
Nevada	2	0.8%	\$1,714,100	1.6%	\$857,050
New Hampshire	3	1.1%	\$1,035,000	1.0%	\$345,000
New Jersey	12	4.5%	\$3,971,604	3.8%	\$330,967
New Mexico	3	1.1%	\$3,123,950	3.0%	\$1,041,317
New York	11	4.2%	\$2,990,997	2.9%	\$271,909
North Carolina	10	3.8%	\$5,533,283	5.3%	\$553,328
North Dakota	2	0.8%	\$609,767	0.6%	\$304,884
Ohio	6	2.3%	\$1,881,444	1.8%	\$313,574
Oklahoma	3	1.1%	\$699,300	0.7%	\$233,100
Oregon	9	3.4%	\$2,141,364	2.1%	\$237,929
Pennsylvania	12	4.5%	\$1,475,036	1.4%	\$122,920
South Carolina	5	1.9%	\$863,882	0.8%	\$172,776
South Dakota	1	0.4%	\$310,095	0.3%	\$310,095
Tennessee	5	1.9%	\$2,718,948	2.6%	\$543,790
Texas	21	7.9%	\$10,960,990	10.5%	\$521,952
Utah	4	1.5%	\$3,312,000	3.2%	\$828,000
Vermont	1	0.4%	\$621,000	0.6%	\$621,000
Virginia	8	3.0%	\$3,570,128	3.4%	\$446,266
Washington	13	4.9%	\$2,897,723	2.8%	\$222,902
West Virginia	1	0.4%	\$187,078	0.2%	\$187,078
Wisconsin	1	0.4%	\$72,000	0.1%	\$72,000
TOTAL	265	100.0%	\$104,003,468	100.0%	\$392,466