



**Homeland
Security**

Media Advisory

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ONLY TWO WEEKS LEFT IN APPLICATION PERIOD FOR THE 2004 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, DC - The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) wants to remind our Nation's fire departments that the application period for the Fiscal Year 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) will close at 5 o'clock eastern standard time on April 2, 2004. In Fiscal Year 2004, AFGP is being administered by the Department's Office for Domestic Preparedness, in collaboration with the U.S. Fire Administration.

Even though there is little change to the program from previous years, there is a new Federal requirement this year that all grantees have a DUNS number, (a unique nine-character identification number provided by the commercial company Dun & Bradstreet). The Federal government will use the DUNS number to better identify related organizations that are receiving funding under grants and cooperative agreements and to provide consistent name and address data for electronic grant applications. Additional information about DUNS numbers can be found on the Dun & Bradstreet Web site (www.dnb.com/US/duns_update/index.html). There is no charge to obtain a DUNS number, and it is the applicant's responsibility to obtain one. It is recommended that applicants request a DUNS number as soon as possible by calling 1-800-333-0505.

As in past years, the AFGP application and program guidance are automated and are available online. They are accessible from the ODP Website (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp) and USFA Website (www.usfa.fema.gov). Additionally, the Websites contain other useful background information on the AFGP, including a tutorial on applying for the program, a list of Frequently Asked Questions and the currently scheduled AFGP workshops. Fire departments that have questions regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program should contact the fire grant help desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at firegrants@dhs.gov.

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