

Homeland Security Announces Opening of Application Period for 2004 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants

Department Will Award \$27.5 Million

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WASHINGTON D.C.- C. Suzanne Mencer, Executive Director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination & Preparedness (SLGCP), announced today the application period for the 2004 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants has opened and will continue through September 30.

"Each year in the United States, thousands of people are killed and thousands more are injured in fires, many of which are preventable," Mencer said. "These Fire Prevention and Safety Grants help firefighters throughout the country provide critical fire safety education and conduct other activities to protect children, families, and communities from fires and other hazards. President Bush and Secretary Ridge are committed to continued support for these important grants."

"For every fire prevented, we know citizens and the firefighters who must respond throughout the country, are spared the destruction of fire," said R. David Paulison, Administrator of the United States Fire Administration. "Since the first year of these grants, the creativity and impact of fire organizations and personnel committed to the prevention of fire have reduced the number of Americans facing the tragic results of fire."

The Fire Prevention and Safety Grants fund projects related specifically to fire prevention. Fire departments as well as national, regional, state or local organizations with expertise in fire prevention are eligible to apply for these grants. Applications can be submitted online at <https://portal.fema.gov>.

This program is part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program that will award over \$700 million to firefighters this year to help local fire departments purchase equipment, fund health and safety programs, enhance emergency medical services programs, and conduct fire education and prevention programs.

Information on the 2004 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants is available at <http://www.firegrantsupport.com>. In addition, applicants can contact the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program staff via phone or email, (866) 274-0960 or firegrants@dhs.gov, with questions.