



**GAC**



**GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

# Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG)

Preserve funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) is key to equipping adequately the nation's first responders and ensuring a high level of protection against fires, natural disasters, terrorism, and other emergencies across the United States.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program was established by Congress in 2001 to assist communities in equipping our nation's first responders, including firefighters and EMS personnel. Through AFG, local fire departments may apply for grants to purchase new and needed equipment, much of which replaces older, outdated equipment that no longer meets standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). AFG provides funding to equip firefighters and other first responders, helping to provide a universal level of protection across the United States, and ensuring public safety. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers the grants in cooperation with the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

Through the FEMA program, fire departments of all sizes purchase personal protective equipment clothing (PPE), self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), personal alert safety system (PASS) devices, fire apparatus, and other essential safety and response equipment. AFG is extremely important to every state's first responders.

FAMA and FEMSA. The Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association (FAMA) and the Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association (FEMSA) represent "the industry that helps first responders

save lives" by manufacturing and supporting the lifesaving equipment utilized by first responders. Member companies are predominately U.S.-based, employ 113,632 U.S. workers, and tend to be small and medium-sized businesses.

Reauthorization. In 2012, Congress reauthorized the AFG program for five years (through FY 2017) at a level of \$750 million, annually indexed to inflation. Twenty-five percent of annual grant funds must be awarded to volunteer, career, and "combination" fire departments each; an additional 10% of funds are available for open competition among all three categories of departments; 10% of funds must be awarded to fire prevention and safety organizations; 3.5% of funds must go to EMS; and 2% may go to non-affiliated EMS organizations. Congress also reauthorized the SAFER (hiring) program and the U.S. Fire Administration. In 2017, the AFG and SAFER programs are up for reauthorization again.

Efficient and effective. AFG is one of the most efficiently-run and effective programs in the federal government. Funds are distributed directly to local fire departments. Bureaucracy is minimal and local community benefit is maximized.

America's fire service. In 2015, the nation's fire and rescue services responded to 33.6 million calls to protect the public. These firefighters and EMS personnel serve as the backbone of the nation's first response capabilities for both natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. As the population ages and expands, this number is expected to increase significantly.

In 2015, the nation had approximately 1.2 million fire and rescue personnel, with over 808,150 (70%) of these serving as volunteers. Without such service, the nation's response capability would be seriously compromised and no longer universal, serving all communities.

## AFG at a glance

**Established**  
2001

**Authorized**  
Through FY 2017

**FY2016 appropriation**  
\$345 million

**Administered by**  
FEMA

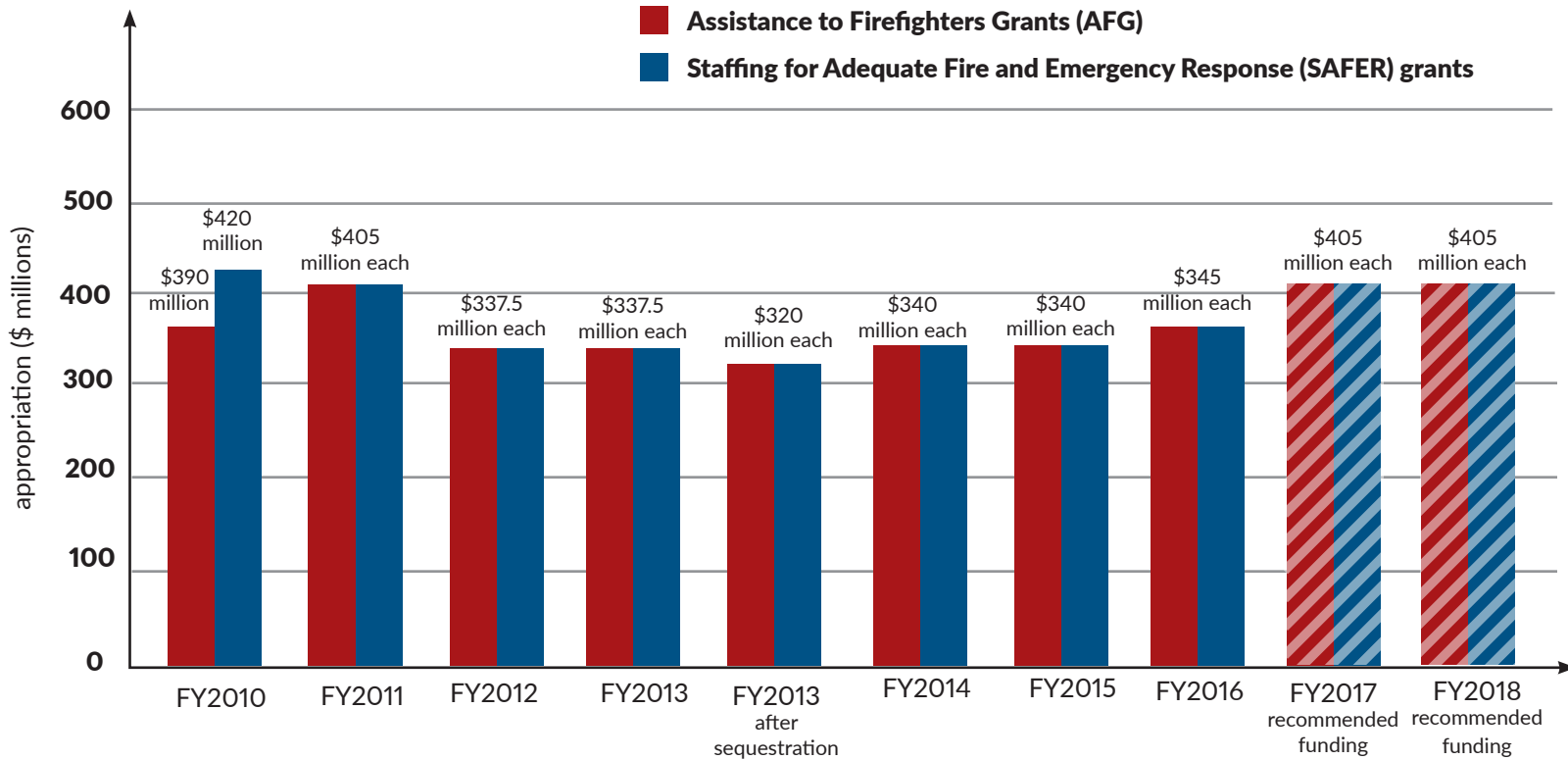
**Supports**  
Purchase of personal protective equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus, personal alert safety system, fire apparatus and other vehicles, and more

1.2 million first responders

113,632 industry jobs

# AFG & SAFER Funding

FY2009–FY2018



## Cost Increases Since 2011



11.4%

protective clothing



15%

self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)



14.6%

pumper trucks, which make up approximately 60% of the apparatus market



12%

cost increase of apparatus due to EPA regulations released in 2007 and 2009

## Real Progress, Real Results

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) helps over 1 million firefighters throughout the United States meet their baseline equipment needs and plays a critical role in the nation's emergency response capabilities.

Based on these statistics, the AFG program is working. Since the program's inception in 2001, first responder capabilities have improved, showing real progress and real results.

Source: Fourth Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service.

**53%** of all fire departments cannot equip all firefighters on a shift with self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), up from 52% in 2010.

**49%** of departments have not formally trained all of their personnel involved in structural firefighting, up from 46% in 2010.

**55%** of all fire departments responsible for emergency medical service (EMS) have not formally trained all of their personnel up from 48% in 2010.

**72%** of all departments have at least one piece of personal protective clothing that is 10 years old, up from 63% in 2010.

**43%** of all fire department engines and pumpers are at least 15 years old, down from 46% in 2010.

## Emergency Needs and the Aging Population

By 2030, the over 65 population will nearly triple as a result of the aging Baby Boomer generation.

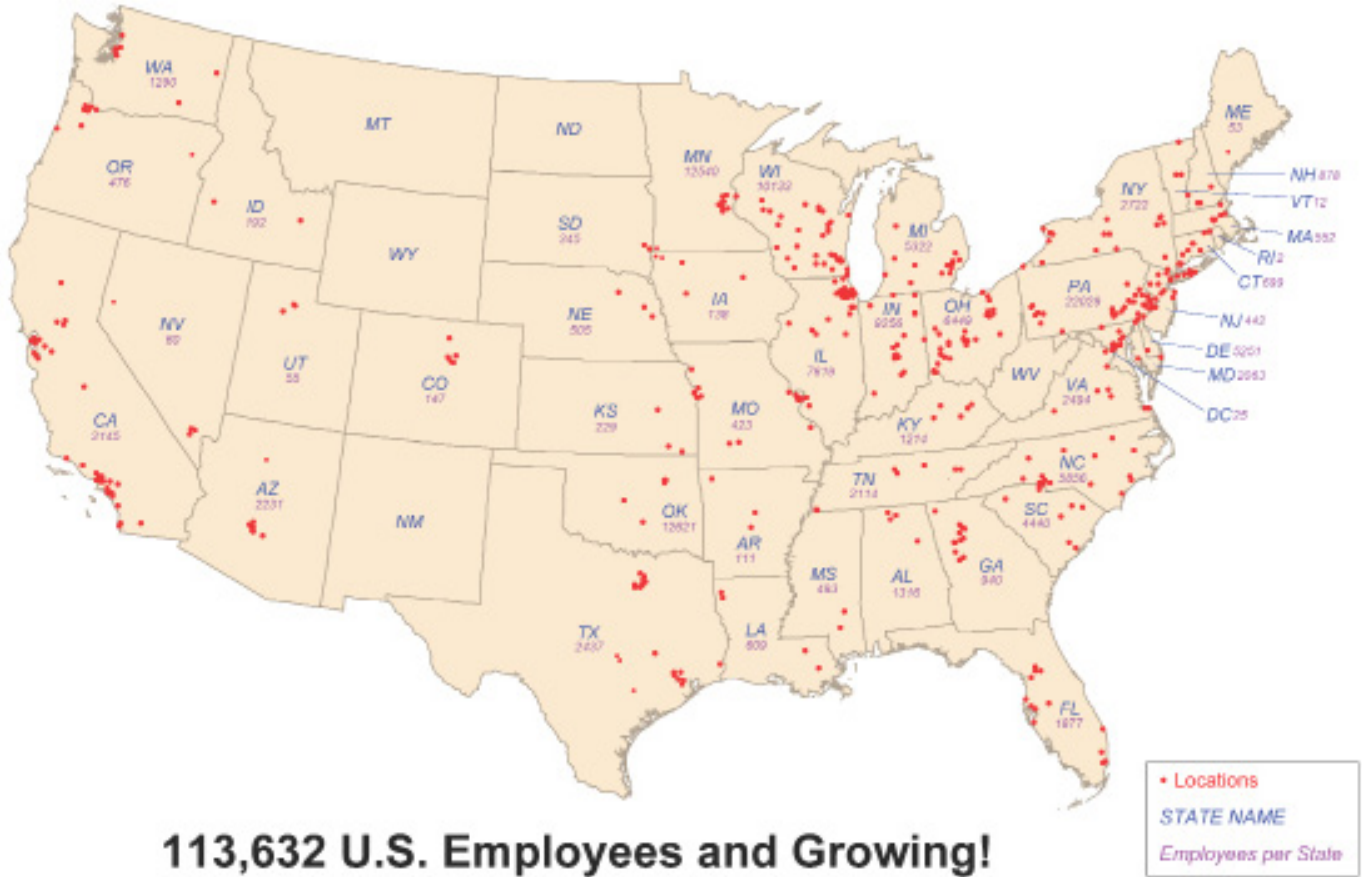
More than 6 out of every 10 Baby Boomers will be managing more than one chronic condition.

More Boomers will visit the emergency department



Source: How Boomers Will Change Health Care - American Hospital Association - [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org)

# FAMA and FEMSA Member Employees



Fire and Emergency Manufacturers  
and Services Association

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