

THE RIAFC FOUNDATION WAS

# AWARDED \$822,698

FOR A 'STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE' (SAFER) GRANT IN NOVEMBER 2019 TO HELP RECRUIT & RETAIN MORE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS FOR DEPARTMENTS IN THE STATE. OVER THE NEXT 4 YEARS THESE FUNDS WILL ASSIST RHODE ISLAND'S FIRE DEPARTMENTS WITH THE RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONDERS.



## PART 1

**New Recruit Scholarship** – At least 25 Volunteers per year will be reimbursed up to \$1,100 for an NFPA 1582 compliant physical and the cost to attend Firefighter 1001, 1002 and hazmat training; reimbursable costs include mileage, lost wages, meals and lodging. Those awarded will have been recruited to their department after December 10, 2019 and will have to commit to membership at a Rhode Island volunteer or combination department for a minimum of 12 months.

Within the first 12 months of appointment to the department, newly recruited Volunteers must meet the minimum fire and EMS training requirements of that department and complete Firefighter 1. For Volunteers accepted under this program, every sponsoring Department/Agency will be reimbursed for each newly recruited volunteer's NFPA 1582 compliant physical upon receipt of a passing certificate. Whenever possible, departments will cover training expenses or facilitate training in-house. Volunteers may incur out of pocket expenses toward this scholarship and can request reimbursement of these expenses once proper documentation is submitted.

Please read the RIAFC SAFER Grant Administrative Guide for additional information.

## PART 2

**PPE Reimbursement**- Once each Volunteer in this program passes their physical and Firefighter 1, and their Fire Chief produces certificates for both to the RIAFC's project coordinator, the department is then eligible for a reimbursement of \$2,000 towards the cost to purchase SAFER eligible NFPA compliant turnouts (PPE).

## PART 3

The SAFER grant program also includes at least two (2) Retention & Recruitment Workshops each year. Anyone involved with volunteer retention & recruitment in their department is encouraged to attend. Travel expenses to attend will be reimbursed (mileage, lodging and per diem) after completion of the course. These 2-day Workshops are instructed by experienced and active fire service leaders. Topics include:

*Leadership: overcoming time demand challenges and skills & strategies for improvement.*

*Communicating the Value of Your Department: customer service, mission statements, and demonstrating financial benefit to the community.*

*Retention of Current Volunteers: welcoming new members, successful retention programs, motivating your volunteers, and SAFER grant funding opportunities.*

*Local Recruitment Campaigns: needs assessment, recruitment responsibility, developing the message, and identifying marketing channels.*

LOCATIONS, DATES, AND WORKSHOP REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.RIFIRECHIEFS.COM](http://WWW.RIFIRECHIEFS.COM)

THIS SAFER GRANT BEGAN ON DECEMBER 10, 2019 AND WILL END ON DECEMBER 9, 2023. ALL PROGRAM DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE END DATE OR THEY WILL BE INELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT.

FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PERSONALIZED PRINTED MARKETING MATERIALS. THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE THESE ITEMS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT OUR R&R WORKSHOPS, SO SIGN UP TODAY!

FOR PROGRAM DOCUMENTS, PLEASE VISIT:  
FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:

[VOLUNTEERFIREFIGHTER.ORG](http://VOLUNTEERFIREFIGHTER.ORG).  
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