



WILDFIRE SEASON STAFFING GRANT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) WHAT IS THE 2023 WILDFIRE SEASON STAFFING GRANT?

The 2023 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant is funding available to Oregon fire agencies to hire additional firefighters during the 2023 wildfire season. This funding will increase on-duty capacity throughout the 2023 fire season and allow agencies to mobilize quickly at the local, regional, and statewide levels. Having more on-duty firefighters will help keep fires small before they can impact communities.

2) WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANT?

Oregon's 306 local fire districts and departments with an assigned FDID or Tribal ID#

3) WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANT?

If your agency received an out-of-compliance communication from the OSFM for a previous grant, your agency may be ineligible for this grant.

If your agency is in the process of responding or reporting to the OSFM related to the 2022 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant, your agency may be ineligible for this grant until which time the audit is finalized.

4) AM I ELIGIBLE IF I HAVE AN AMENDMENT (EXTENDING TERM) FROM THE 2022 WILDFIRE SEASON STAFFING GRANT?

Yes. If your agency was approved an amendment that extended the terms of the prior year's award, you may be eligible to apply again. Your request may not exceed \$35,000 for the new year. The total amount of carryover must be disclosed and included in the total ask for the 2023 grant cycle. For example, if your agency was approved to carry over \$5,000, you may request up to \$30,000 in the new year.

5) HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FOR THE GRANT?

The OSFM has allocated approximately \$6 million to the 2023 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant.

6) WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM AWARD?

Grants of up to \$35,000 are available to eligible Oregon fire agencies. Agencies may include a 10% administrative cost request in the total amount requested of \$35,000.

7) WHAT TIMEFRAME QUALIFIES AS 'WILDFIRE SEASON'?

For purposes of this grant, June 1 through October 31 qualifies as wildfire season. Money awarded needs to be spent by October 31, 2023.

8) WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T EXPEND THE WHOLE AMOUNT RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 31?

Applicants unable to expend the entire grant amount received should reach out to the OSFM's grant inbox (OSFM.grants@osp.oregon.gov) to review the project.



WILDFIRE SEASON STAFFING GRANT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

9) WHAT IS THE DEADLINE TO APPLY?

Applications for the 2023 Wildfire Season Staffing grant will be accepted through May 19, 2023.

10) WHAT ARE ALLOWABLE COSTS FOR THIS GRANT?

- Personnel costs that increase the availability of firefighters including:
 - students/interns,
 - paying volunteers,
 - extra shifts for part-time career firefighters for the 2023 fire season,
 - overtime shifts for firefighters during the 2023 fire season,
 - additional seasonal firefighters who need minimal training.
- Administrative costs, including management, payroll, and supplies associated with payment of salaries up to 10% of the grant award.

11) WHAT COSTS ARE NOT ALLOWED WITH THIS GRANT?

- Hiring new permanent employees.
- Supplanting existing personnel budgets or other budgets. (i.e., using these funds to cover personnel costs your agency already has budgeted for to allow other activities not budgeted for).
- Paid leave expenses (i.e., vacation or sick leave).
- Purchasing equipment or equipment maintenance.
- Raises or pay bonuses.
- Training events.
- Hours reimbursed via other means (i.e., conflagration).
- Fuel and other travel expenses.

12) HOW WILL THE OSFM PRIORITIZE APPLICATIONS?

Priority will be given to local fire agencies whose annual property tax income does not exceed \$2 million. This information can be found at the tax assessor's office. This is not the annual operating budget, capital outlay budget, funding received from all grants (local, state, and federal), or reserve accounts.

Agencies with an annual property tax income exceeding \$2 million are eligible. These applications will be reviewed after the application period closes on May 19, 2023; grant selections will be made based on remaining funds.

13) FOR CITY FIRE DEPARTMENTS, IS THE PROPERTY TAX INCOME THE AMOUNT RECEIVED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OR BY THE CITY?

Report the total property tax income received by the fire department from the city.



WILDFIRE SEASON STAFFING GRANT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

14) WHEN ENTERING THE ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX INCOME INFORMATION, ARE LEVIES INCLUDED?

Yes. Please include the levy amount as well. Please make note of this in the “Additional Comments” section of the application.

15) DO WE REPORT ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX INCOME INFORMATION THAT DOES NOT SUPPORT THE FIRE AGENCY?

No. You only need to report the funds the fire agency is expected to receive.

16) IS HIRING SEASONAL (STRUCTURAL) FIREFIGHTERS ALLOWED?

Yes, choose 'other' in the application process. Use the space provided to describe your structural seasonal firefighter hiring plan. This grant is not intended to extend training events. Seasonal firefighters hired with this funding should meet the structural firefighter qualifications as outlined by the applying agency.

17) HOW QUICKLY WILL FUNDING BE AVAILABLE, OR WHEN WILL I RECEIVE FUNDS?

Applications will be reviewed as they are received and processed as quickly as possible. Grants will be awarded in a one-time lump sum to be spent across the duration of the grant period.

18) WHAT ARE THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?

Applicants who receive a grant award must provide the OSFM with a progress report in August 2023. A final report will be due in December 2023.

When the applicant spends the funds, the agency must email the [OSFM grant manager](#) and provide proof of payments for all staffing and administration.

19) HOW DO I SUBMIT MY GRANT APPLICATION?

Complete [your application here](#).

20) WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please email OSFM.grants@osp.oregon.gov.