



Homeland
Security

Press Release

January 20, 2006

Contact: 202-786-9899

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ANNOUNCES THE TWENTY-FIRST ROUND OF THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS AWARDING \$3 MILLION TO AMERICA'S FIRE DEPARTMENTS

(Washington, DC) January 20, 2006 – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security today announced the twenty-first round of the Fiscal Year 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awarding 25 grants to fire departments throughout the United States.

AFGP will issue approximately 5,500 awards worth nearly \$600 million in direct assistance to firefighters and first responders throughout the country, demonstrating Homeland Security's commitment to ensuring that America's firefighters have the resources they need to protect their communities.

“These awards are critical to ensuring our nation’s firefighters have the necessary resources to save lives and keep their communities safe,” said Tracy A. Henke, Executive Director of the Office of Grants and Training (G&T).

This twenty-first round of fire grants provides \$3,151,927 to help local fire departments and emergency medical services programs to purchase or receive training, first responder health and safety programs, equipment and response vehicles.

“The Federal government continues to support the critical work of our nation’s firefighters by ensuring departments attain a basic capability level through the competitive Assistance to Firefighters Grant program,” said Charlie Dickinson, Deputy Administrator of the Department of Homeland Security’s United States Fire Administration.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the Department’s Office of Grants and Training (G&T) in cooperation with the United States Fire Administration.

G&T is the principal federal agency responsible for the preparedness of the United States for acts of terrorism, including coordinating preparedness efforts at the federal level, and working with all state, local, tribal, parish, and private sector emergency response providers on all matters pertaining to combating terrorism, including training, exercises and equipment

support. To support this mission, G&T administers a number of programs that provide a wide array of support to our nation's emergency preparedness and response community. For more information on G&T, please visit the Website at www.ojp.gov/odp.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) is a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) within the Department of Homeland Security. The mission of the USFA is to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies, through leadership, advocacy, coordination, and support. For more information on USFA, please visit the website at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov>.

###