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CITY OF DANBURY
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January 26, 2010

Mayor Mark D. Boughton
Hon. Members of the City Council
155 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810

Re: SAFER Grant
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response

Dear Mayor and Council:

The Federal Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Grant Programs Directive (GPD) have extended to the Danbury Fire Department an opportunity to apply for grant funds for a two year period to hire new firefighters and/or to re-hire firefighters that have been laid off. A third year program requirement that mandates retention of those hired is not funded, at least not at this time pursuant to the materials provided. Those municipalities indicating financial capability and willingness to participate for the third year would be awarded the initial grant funds if they successfully emerge from the review process.

This program opportunity is funded in part through the Stimulus program, and has been extended to municipalities who perceive a need for such program benefits. The time frames for applicants to submit interest in the program have also been modified and extended several times, the last one being January 15, 2010. In that regard, and in order to secure the opportunity to apply for these funds for Danbury, and to ensure that the potential for changes in program time frames do not result in Danbury being left out of the opportunity, Fire Chief Geoff Herald has submitted a preliminary application for consideration and review by the agencies administering this program in order to secure our position in time. The program requires a number of review steps prior to any awards being considered or made, including re-contact of the application municipality to discuss the original application. Additionally, it is recognized that the Council, in the event an award is eventually made, will be asked to authorize grant and program acceptance and accept funding certification from the Finance Director for the purposes of the program requiring such local funds in its third year. At the present time, you are being asked to adopt the attached resolution simply asserting your ratification of the preliminary submission, such that the process may begin. While it is typical that you normally authorize grant or fund application prior to submission, circumstances involving the potential loss of an opportunity occasionally support a subsequent action in this manner.

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While we do not know the likelihood of receiving the grant and the benefits of the program, the Chief is pleased to be able to seek ways to supplement local funding to achieve the overall goal of fully staffing the Fire Department with the least cost possible. Therefore, kindly review and adopt the attached resolution joining the Chief in seeking participation in this worthwhile program.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Laszlo L. Pinter
Deputy Corporation Counsel

Attachment

cc: David St. Hilaire, Director of Finance
Geoff Herald, Fire Chief

Llp/safer

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RESOLUTION

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

_____ A.D. 2010

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANBURY

WHEREAS, the Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the federal Grant Program Directive (GPD) have made available to municipal fire departments and other fire department or related organizations, grant funding for a multi year program to assist in the hiring and/or rehiring of firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the program, known as "SAFER" (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) seeks to fund a two year program of hiring or rehiring firefighters, with a third year commitment by the recipient to fund the final year out of local resources; and

WHEREAS, said funding arises from several federal fund sources, including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ("ARRA") and provides awards to selected departments after submission of an application and a program review process; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City of Danbury to secure the opportunity for obtaining such grant funding and securing the opportunities provided to supplement funding in order to provide Danbury residents with the best fire protection capability possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mayor Mark D. Boughton or his designee Fire Chief Geoff Herald be, are and have been authorized to make application to the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program ("SAFER") in accordance with documentation and stipulations as submitted;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all actions taken in submission of preliminary application and interest in the program be and hereby are ratified, as are actions and submission of documents and materials preliminary to final award, acceptance of funds or program final commitment.

Title of Opportunity: Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program

Funding Opportunity Number: [if applicable, assigned by GPD/GMD]

Federal Agency Name: Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate (GPD)

Announcement Type: Annual

Dates: Completed applications must be submitted **no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Friday, December 18, 2009.**

Additional Overview Information:

As a result of the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and the Supplemental Appropriation Act, 2009 (P.L. 111-32), the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants for the Hiring of Firefighters Activity will be awarded under conditions significantly different from those in effect prior to the passage of these Acts. The content of this Program Guidance and its official issuance reflects the Secretary's and the DHS/FEMA implementation of the provisions provided by these Acts. NOTE: These changes **ONLY** affect the FY 2009 grants and the FY 2010 SAFER grants when the FY 2010 solicitation becomes available. The new conditions are **NOT** retroactive to prior year grants nor will they remain in effect beyond FY 2010.

Under authorities provided under ARRA and P.L. 111-32, the following requirements are being waived for the FY09 SAFER program:

- Salary limits; there are no annual salary limits; Cost-share; there is no prescribed cost-share; Retention commitment; grantees that are rehiring laid off firefighters do not have to commit to retaining the SAFER-funded firefighters; Period of performance; reduced for hiring grants from four years to two years.

The application period for this FY2009 SAFER solicitation begins on Monday, November 16, 2009, and ends on December 18, 2009.

Under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity in this solicitation, we will distinguish between grants to hire new firefighters and grants to rehire laid-off firefighters.

- Grants to hire **new firefighters** have a 2-year period of performance and require grantees to commit to retaining the SAFER-funded firefighters for one full year after the end of the period of performance. Federal funds may be used to pay for 100% of the actual salary and benefit costs of these newly hired firefighters without a local cost-share.
- Grants to **rehire laid-off firefighters** have a 2-year period of performance with **no** requirement to retain the firefighters beyond the period of performance. Federal funds may be used to pay for 100 percent of the actual salary and benefit costs of rehired firefighters with no requirement for a local cost-share.

Priorities for Hiring of Firefighters Activity grants remain largely unchanged from last year's grants in that they continue to focus on staffing standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).