



# AFG GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR RAM AIR GEAR DRYERS

GET YOUR PIECE OF THE PIE!

As of Sept. 20, 2023, FEMA's 2022 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program has awarded \$324 million in grants to firefighters and first responders to obtain critically needed equipment to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. Because the proper decontamination and drying of protective gear increases the effectiveness of our firefighters and emergency response operations, Ram Air Gear Dryers qualify for these grant dollars. For more info and to obtain grant applications, please visit [www.fema.gov/grants](http://www.fema.gov/grants).

## DONT'S

### COMMON MISTAKES MADE WHEN SPECIFYING GEAR DRYERS

#### DON'T BE BRAND SPECIFIC

Your grant application should be generically written for "a gear dryer that meets NFPA recommendations." Do not include a particular brand or manufacturer name in your application or narrative.

#### DON'T ASK FOR TOO LITTLE

Do not ask for less than you need. Include all eligible costs including state taxes and EHP review costs.

#### DON'T SPECIFY THE INCORRECT CATEGORY IN YOUR REQUEST

Gear dryers qualify for Operations and Safety Equipment category.

#### DON'T WAIT TO START YOUR AFG APPLICATION

The application period for AFG opens on Jan. 29, 2024 and closes on Mar. 8, 2024 at 5pm ET.

## DO'S

### THINGS TO INCLUDE TO STRENGTHEN YOUR AFG APPLICATION WHEN SPECIFYING GEAR DRYERS

#### DO ALIGN YOUR NEEDS WITH THE CURRENT FUNDING PRIORITIES

For 2023 AFG, gear dryers are listed as high priority for receiving grants. AFG typically only funds high priority items.

#### DO SPECIFY A GEAR DRYER IF YOU ARE ALSO SPECIFYING NEW GEAR

If you are specifying new gear in your application, also specify a gear dryer. This will demonstrate that you intend to properly care for your investment. If you have previously received an award for new gear, mention the you want to protect the investment AFG previously provided.

#### DO SPECIFY A GEAR DRYER THAT UTILIZES FORCED AMBIENT AIR.

NFPA 1851 recommends the use of forced ambient air dryers for gear so it is important to show NFPA alignment.

#### DO SPECIFY FIRST TIME PURCHASES

First time purchases (never owned by applicant) have highest priority.

#### DO KNOW THE AGE OF YOUR CURRENT GEAR DRYER IF YOU ALREADY OWN ONE

Replacing obsolete or damaged equipment is a high priority for AFG. Gear dryers are assigned to an intermediate age category (8-14years). But age alone will not guarantee an award. Make sure to give a complete description of the condition of your current gear dryer and the risks to which it is exposing firefighters if it is not drying gear properly.

#### DO CONSIDER USING YOUR GEAR DRYER PURCHASE TO BENEFIT OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Recipients are encouraged to allow other organizations to benefit from an awarded activity (e.g., cleaning another organization's turnout gear).

Note: If recipients choose to include costs associated with shared benefit for members outside their department, they must apply as a Regional application.

## CONSIDER THIS...

In a typical year the AFG program will receive 16,000 to 20,000 applications but only around 2,000 applications will be funded. Many of these applications were not funded because they failed to meet funding priorities and/or had narratives that lacked critical information. Consider using a professional grant writer for your grant submission. They know the "ins and outs" of the process and often have high award success rate. Ram Air can provide recommendations to grant writers that know the fire industry. Just ask!

