

**CONFIRE**

STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 27, 2026

FROM: Nathan Cooke, Executive Director

BY: Damian Parsons, Deputy Director of Business Operations
Dianne Mendez, Contracts and Grants Manager

TO: CONFIRE Administrative Committee

SUBJECT: Application for the California Fire Foundation Proposition 4 and Firefighter Safety Grant Program

Recommendation

Authorize staff to submit a grant application to the California Fire Foundation Proposition 4 Wildfire Prevention and Firefighter Safety Grant Program requesting \$19,600 under the Firefighter Health & Safety funding category to provide introductory training for CONFIRE's new Peer Support Team and participating regional fire department personnel.

Background Information

The California Fire Foundation Proposition 4 Wildfire Prevention and Firefighter Safety Grant Program provides funding to strengthen firefighter and first responder safety, community preparedness, and wildfire prevention. The Firefighter Health & Safety category includes mental and behavioral health programs and peer support initiatives. As a nonprofit organization, CONFIRE is eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted through the Foundation's online grants portal by November 16, 2026.

CONFIRE is establishing a new Peer Support Team following the launch of emergency medical ground ambulance services. The program will support personnel across ambulance operations, emergency communications, and administrative and support services. Selected peers will be trained to provide confidential support, recognize signs of stress, and connect employees with appropriate professional resources.

Grant funding would provide introductory training to help establish the program and support subsequent resource development and coordinated implementation across CONFIRE's Dispatching and Emergency Medical Service Divisions. The program is intended to address the emotional demands of emergency services, strengthen workforce resilience, and promote a culture in which employees feel supported in seeking help.

The project will be available to other fire departments within CONFIRE's operational area that serve the same community. The team will also collaborate with regional peer support teams through joint training, shared resources, and mutual support during critical incidents, strengthening regional capacity to support personnel following emergencies.

Through the established procurement process, an outside vendor will provide certified trainers to provide courses such as "Assisting Individuals in Crisis and Group Crisis Intervention". CONFIRE is requesting funding for 43 participants.

Fiscal Impact

There is no additional appropriation requested for submitting the grant application. The proposed grant request of \$19,600 would cover training and associated costs, subject to the Foundation's approval of the final project budget. The grant does not require matching funds. The proposed request does not include additional funding for participant staffing or backfill costs.

If awarded, staff will present grant acceptance and any required budget adjustments or ongoing financial commitments to the Board for approval before implementation. Training will be scheduled after the award is accepted and within the approved performance period, consistent with grant requirements.

Attachment

None