

Request for Proposals (RFP): Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant Program

Announcement Date: 9/1/2025

Proposal Deadline: 12/1/2025

Funding Agency: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Program Authority: U.S. Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978

The Minnesota Rural Fire Program is pleased to announce the availability of grant funding through the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant Program. The VFA program is designed to support local fire departments that serve communities with a population of 10,000 or fewer. Funding may be used to enhance wildland and rural firefighting capacity through the purchase of equipment, personal protective gear, training, and other eligible improvements.

Eligible Applicants:

- Local fire departments serving rural communities or rural areas with populations under
- 10,000. Departments must have wildland fire protection responsibilities and be legally organized entities.

Eligible Activities:

- Wildland and structural personal protective equipment
- Communication equipment
- Wildland fire equipment and tools
- Conversion or upgrade of excess federal property
- Training in wildland fire management and suppression

Funding Information:

- This is a 50/50 cost-share grant. Recipients must provide matching non-federal funds.
- Awards typically range from \$500.00 to \$5,000.00.
- All expenditures must directly support wildland fire protection efforts.

Application Process:

Interested applicants must submit a complete application packet **by December 1, 2025**. Application materials, detailed program guidelines, and submission instructions are available at: [VFA Grant Application Form](#)

Evaluation Criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Community risk and need
- Department's wildland fire responsibilities
- Project impact and alignment with program goals
- Past performance
- Priority may be given to departments that have not received VFA funding in the past two years.

Questions & Technical Assistance:

For more information or technical assistance, please contact:

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Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your department's wildland fire response capability. Submit your application by December 1, 2025!