

AFG, SAFER, & USFA REAUTHORIZATION

THE FIRE GRANTS AND SAFETY ACT (S.870/H.R.4090)

BACKGROUND

- Fire departments are stretched thin. Per NFPA fire department call statistics, more calls for service are being recorded now than ever before.
 - In 2021, fire departments responded to more than *36.6 million* calls.
 - These calls are not just for fire, but also for medical emergencies, mutual aid, hazmat, natural disasters, search and rescue, active shooter/hostile event response, and much more.
- The needs of the fire service are great – many departments still lack basic gear and equipment. The AFG and SAFER grant programs are constantly flooded with many more applications than they can fund.
- The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is the lead federal agency for fire data collection, public fire education, fire research, and fire service training.
- The Senate has passed S.870, which would reauthorize AFG, SAFER, and USFA and increase the authorization for USFA to \$95 million.

TALKING POINTS

- The AFG and SAFER grant programs support vital recruitment and retention efforts, as well as training and equipping fire department personnel.
- These peer-reviewed programs require matching grants and provide federal funding directly to fire departments, meaning that departments do not have to rely on passthrough to access much-needed funds for staffing, training, and basic equipment.
- Without reauthorization, AFG and SAFER will sunset on Sep. 30, 2024, causing the programs to cease to exist.
- It is essential that USFA, the agency tasked with supporting America's fire and emergency services, is properly authorized and resourced at a time when fire and EMS personnel are facing more calls for service than ever before.

ASK

- The Fire Grants and Safety Act (S.870/H.R.4090) must become law before AFG and SAFER expire.

