

FEMA Grants will Allow Local Fire Departments to Upgrade Facilities

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) today announced that millions of dollars in grant money are now available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to upgrade, construct and improve fire stations under a program created by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (Recovery Bill).

“The opportunity for our local fire departments to improve their facilities makes our area safer and allows the brave men and women who protect us every day to have the best accommodations and equipment possible,” **Arcuri said**, “The Recovery Bill has allowed us to fund vital programs like this to create and save jobs and put our firefighters in the best possible position to protect our communities.”

Monday, June 1, 2009 marked the start of the application period for FEMA’s Assistance to Firefighters Station Construction Grants (SCG) using funding from the Recovery Bill. The SCG program is a competitive grant program, with no local match requirement, that provides funding assistance directly to fire departments on a competitive basis to build new or modify existing fire stations in order for departments to enhance their response capability and protect the community they serve from fire and fire-related hazards. Generally, the program is designed to fund projects that enhance firefighter safety, including (but not be limited to) the replacement of condemned structures or rehabilitation of unhealthy structures, or projects that improve the fire department’s response capabilities and enhance public safety.

Applications must be submitted electronically no later than July 10, 2009. The application process also requires pre-registration, which may take several weeks to process, according to FEMA. As a result, interested fire departments are urged to begin the application process as soon as possible. Grant awards are expected to be announced this fall and the number of awards is estimated to range between 60 and 80 nationwide.

Arcuri’s office is sending letters to fire departments throughout the 24th Congressional District with more information on the application process. Fire departments that do not receive a letter by June 10, 2009, should contact Arcuri’s district office by calling (315)793-8146. Interested fire departments can also visit FEMA’s website: www.fema.gov/government/grant/arra/index.shtm for more information.

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