



## RFC Grant Application Memorandum

**TO:** Idaho Fire Service Organizations (FSOs)/Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs)  
**FROM:** Josh Harvey, Chief, Bureau of Fire Management  
**DATE:** April 1, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Rural Fire Capacity (RFC) Grant Program Application

Enclosed is a copy of the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) RFC Grant Application. RFC is a cooperative program between IDL and USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, under the authority of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, Public Law 95-313, as amended. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number is 10.664. The RFC application and additional information on the RFC grant process and timeline, is also available on the IDL website under grants.

### 1. APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 1, 2026

Submit applications to your local IDL Forest Protective District/Area Office or Timber Protective Association. For a complete listing of these offices, visit the IDL website.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

**If the application does not meet all criteria, it will not be considered for funding.**

- A. Each recipient of a federal grant is required to have an active Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number through the federal System for Award Management (SAM) Portal. To be eligible for RFC funding, an FSO or RFPA applicant must participate in the County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process for their county. All requests for RFC assistance listed on the application should be identified in the applicant county's CWPP or periodic update. Any new FSO or RFPA will have a maximum of five years from their inception to become a participant in the CWPP process for their county. For information on your county's CWPP, contact the county Emergency Management Coordinator or Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).
- B. An FSO/RFPA serving a rural area or a rural community with a population of 10,000, or less, is eligible (latest Census). FSO/RFPAs serving a population of greater than 10,000, or a county or town over 10,000 served by two or more FSO/RFPAs, may qualify if the service area includes and benefits a rural area, or community, having a population of 10,000 or less. Each applicant must have their own FDID number. The FSO/ RFPA must have a service area that includes a rural area, or community, that does not exceed 10,000 in population. **The RFC funding must be used entirely for the benefit of the rural population.** A single community FSO/ RFPA serving a population greater than 10,000, and not providing protection to a rural area or to a rural community, is not eligible for RFC financial assistance.
- C. RFC funding allocated to the State is based, in part, on the number of fires reported in the national database. Therefore, **fire districts failing to report information to the NERIS database will not be considered for funding.** Contact the State Fire Marshals Office to see if you are compliant.
- D. While paid FSO/RFPAs are not excluded from participation in the RFC program, considering anticipated funding levels, it is not anticipated that FSO/RFPAs comprised of less than 80 percent volunteer rate will receive funding.

### 3. ELIGIBLE PURCHASES

- A. Equipment less than \$5000 per piece. (Ex: Three radios of \$2500 each is acceptable.)
- B. Purchases made between the date of this award letter and the March 1 deadline.

### 4. PROCESS

- A. The FSO/RFPA's share (match) of the financial assistance must be available at the time of application. Match must be "hard" (cash) match per category; non-reimbursable out-of-pocket expenses where the subrecipient is responsible for payment. Applicants may not derive their share from other sources of federal government assistance. Note: FSO/RFPAs will not be reimbursed until all bills due IDL have been paid. (An Excel spreadsheet with formulas to help calculate the hard match is available on the grant site listed above.)
- B. Applications must be **completed** and **signed** by the FSO's Fire Chief or RFPA's Chairman to be considered. The application must include a description of the project, itemized quotes and a printout of a UEI number with a recently updated expiration date from SAM.
- C. When completing the RFC Grant Application, **contact the nearest IDL Forest Protective District Fire Warden or Timber Protective Association Fire Warden for assistance** with obtaining pricing quotes for items available through the Coeur d'Alene Interagency Fire Cache from the DLA Wildland Fire Equipment Catalog. **All orders are due to the Coeur d'Alene Interagency Fire Cache by December 15.** A link to the CDA Fire Cache (Logistics Program), with the Wildland Fire Equipment Catalog—Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), can be found on the Fire page of the IDL website. Pricing can be found in the CDA Fire Cache Supply Catalog.
- D. If an award is made for Personal Protective Equipment, IDL will reimburse actual costs up to \$95 for each shirt and up to \$120 per pair of pants. IDL will reimburse actual costs or up to \$200 for each pair of coveralls. Wildland Fire Gear is the priority.
- E. Wildland firefighting boots **will not** be funded.
- F. Fire Shelters – These grant funds will not cover a personal shelter for every member of the applicant's FSO/RFPA. IDL will only consider shelters for the number of seats on wildland fire apparatus. Only complete fire shelters will be sold by the CDA Fire Cache.
- G. Communications Equipment – All radios purchased must be narrow band and specified as such on the vendor quote. Radios purchased must be compliant with the applicant county's radio plan. Radios, all pumps, and saws are not sold by the CDA Fire Cache.
- H. Training – There are several state agencies responsible for training of personnel. Applicant should pursue these avenues before applying for funding through this grant by contacting the local Idaho Department of Lands, Timber Protective Association, Bureau of Land Management, or US Forest Service office. Another training resource is the State of Idaho Career-Technical Education website.
- I. Project Request – Provide a detailed description of how this request will improve the response capability within the designated service area for which the applicant's FSO/RFPA is first and foremost responsible.

Contact your local IDL Forest Protective District/Area Office or Timber Protective Association if you have any questions or concerns regarding the RFC Grant Program. **Applications must be submitted to your local IDL Forest Protective District/Area Office or Timber Protective Association no later than June 1, 2026.**