

BGVFC SAFER Grant

Physicals, Training and PPE Reimbursement
for Volunteer Emergency Responders

Administrative Guide



Blawnox-Glenover VFC, Parkview VFC, and Pleasant Valley VFC
SAFER Grant for Recruiting New Volunteer Emergency Responders

11/19/2024- 11/18/2028

The Blawnox-Glenover VFC PPE, Physicals, and Training Award Program was established to address a critical need by recruiting and retaining volunteer emergency responders. The primary goal of this program is to implement initiatives that enhance the number of well-trained Volunteer Emergency Responders available to serve our region during emergencies. All funds allocated to this program will be responsibly managed to ensure they remain available to support department participants until the program's conclusion.

Program Description

Recruitment: Physicals/PPE

One of the objectives of this program is to attract and recruit new volunteer emergency responders. The BGVFC SAFER Grant will offer grant awards for approximately 60 newly recruited volunteer emergency responders throughout the 4-year grant program to field the costs of physicals and equipment.

Each eligible volunteer emergency responder recruited after August 22, 2024 who is selected by the Grant Committee for this award, may receive reimbursement for their NFPA 1582 compliant physical and PPE. The volunteer must commit to membership at Blawnox-Glenover VFC, Parkview VFD, or Pleasant Valley VFD for at least 24 months.

Required documents and reporting in order of submission for Physicals & PPE:

1. BGVFC Reimbursement Request Form
2. "Fit for Duty" Sign Off and invoice for the physical referencing the volunteer. \$516 is a set negotiated rate with [Mobile Health Services](#). Call to book your appointment. You may also use your personal physician and submit for costs up to the maximum allowable amount of \$615.
3. Invoices & receipts for PPE up to \$3,625 referencing the volunteer.
4. Proof of enrollment in or certificate of completion in firefighter training.

Each department is allowed 20 physicals and 20 sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Should a department wish to apply for an additional set, they will be placed on a waiting list. Failure to submit a request for Physical/PPE reimbursement by May 2028 may result in forfeiture of their allocation. If a department fails to utilize the grant funds, departments on the wait list will be informed, and their requests will be processed in the order they were received.

Retention: Training

In effort is to increase the number of well-trained Volunteer Firefighters that respond to emergencies. The BGVFC SAFER Grant Committee will reimburse EMT & FF I training expenses including travel to attend training and meals in exchange for a 2-year commitment to a recognized volunteer fire department. We will reimburse either the individual or the department expenses incurred up to \$1,960.00 from 11/19/2024- 11/18/2028. 60 Volunteers will qualify.

Required documents and reporting in order of submission for Training:

1. Training Reimbursement Request Form
2. Invoices & receipts for classes.
3. Invoices/receipts for hotel (GSA rate)
4. Include a round-trip map for mileage (GSA rate)
5. Certificate of completion in firefighter training.

Program Eligibility

The following is a list of program guidelines set forth in the grant narrative and must be adhered to by BGVFC and all participants:

1. Provide proof of membership to Blawnox-Glenover VFC, Parkview VFD, or Pleasant Valley VFD
2. Volunteer must be at least 18 years old.
3. Volunteer must remain active and in good standing with the Sponsoring Department/Agency.
4. Volunteer must commit to completing firefighter training within 12 months of joining.
5. Applicant's Chief/Commissioner/Director must sign the Reimbursement Form to collect reimbursement for physical/training/PPE expenses.
6. All Reimbursement Requests must meet criteria guidelines to be considered for an award.

Award Selection Criteria**General Eligibility:**

The BGVFC SAFER Grant Committee will review all applications and documents to approve or decline award eligibility. Being accepted into membership of the sponsoring department does not guarantee the volunteer will be awarded a scholarship under the SAFER grant program; satisfying these criteria simply makes them eligible for an award.

Program Contacts:

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Physical

Mobile Health Services 412-374-2800 info@mobilehealthservices.org
<https://www.mobilehealthservices.org/>

IMPORTANT: This is a reimbursement program. All major requirements must be met before reimbursement can be made. The grant performance period ends 11/18/2028. We must disperse all reimbursement funds by this date.

**All applicable local, state or federal laws and regulations shall supersede the procedures and conditions outlined in this administrative guide. These guidelines are subject to change without notice.*

**Receipt of grant monies in either capacity may have tax consequences. Please consult your tax advisor PRIOR to participation in this program.*