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To: Fire Protection District and Local Government Clients

Re: DCEO Local CURE Funding and FEMA Grant Funding for Fire Protection Districts

On October 13, 2020, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) in conjunction with the Office of the State Fire Marshal presented a webinar on available funding to Illinois fire protection Districts. This memo is intended to summarize the pertinent facts regarding funding available to Illinois Fire Protection Districts under Local CURE Allotment "C", and available FEMA Grant Funding. Attached to this Memo is the DCEO's PowerPoint that provides more information than is covered in this memo.

**Local CURE Allotment "C" Funding through the DCEO**

The Local CURE funding comes from funding made available under the Federal CARES Act which created the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund can only be used to cover expenses that:

1. Are necessary expenditures incurred due to COVID-19;
2. Were not appropriated or accounted for in the District's' budget approved as of March 27, 2020; and
3. Were incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020.

This memo will not cover funding available to municipal or county fire departments.

For downstate fire protection districts that are units of local government, funding is available under Local CURE Allotment "C". You may recall that funding was available under Allotment "C" in July of this year. There are funds remaining and the application window is now open again. The DCEO has intimated that funding will be available on a rolling basis with application windows closing every other Friday. The next application window is expected to close on **Friday, October 30, 2020 at 4:00PM.**

The purpose of the program is to reimburse fire protection districts for certain COVID-19 related expenses including, but not limited to, emergency medical response expenses, PPE-related expenses, and payroll expenses that are "substantially dedicated" to mitigating or responding to COVID-19. The DCEO has stated that "governments may presume that public health and public safety employees meet the substantially dedicated test, unless the chief executive (or equivalent) of the relevant government determines that specific circumstances indicated otherwise." Additionally, eligible costs also include "any other COVID-19 related expenses reasonably necessary for the unit of local government to respond to the public health

emergency that satisfied Local CURE Program eligibility criteria” and the local government must document how the expenses are related to COVID-19.

There is a long, non-exhaustive list of ineligible expenses which we would suggest you review prior to applying for Allotment C funding. However, here are a few: governmental revenue shortfall replacement, damages covered by insurance, reimbursement to donors for donated items or services, severance pay, indirect costs or administrative costs, and expenses reimbursable through another state or federal funding opportunity.

For additional information or to begin the application, use this link: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/CURE.aspx>.

As an item of particular note: if your fire department is operated as or by a volunteer fire department organization that is registered as a non-profit corporation, there may be funding available to that corporation through the Business Interruption Grant (BIG) for revenue losses.

### **FEMA Grant Funding**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has made available approximately \$31,000,000 and has opened a second round of funding applicable specifically for volunteer and combination fire departments. Primarily, the funding is available for the purchase of personal protective equipment and supplies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, and it includes reimbursement for expenses made since January 1, 2020. Items ineligible for reimbursement are: thermometers, narcotics and medication, N95 fit tester, separation barriers or flexi-glass, COVID-19 testing kits, and pulse oximeters. The application deadline is **Friday, November 13, 2020**.

There is a matching requirement depending on your District’s population. For Districts with 20,000 or fewer residents, the District will need to match 5% of the total grant awarded. For Districts with more than 20,000 residents, but less than 1 million residents, the District will need to match 10% of the total grant awarded.

There are certain eligibility criteria that must be met. If your District is interested in applying for FEMA Grant Funding, use this link to review all of the criteria and the requirements/instructions to apply: [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/fema\\_fy-2020\\_assistance-firefighters-grant-program\\_covid-19\\_nofo.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0ShyM8IO\\_DQpsQYEgrc2OAFntbFkam0yCAHXIAIC2qZ92XyxF5IYGwbXQ](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/fema_fy-2020_assistance-firefighters-grant-program_covid-19_nofo.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0ShyM8IO_DQpsQYEgrc2OAFntbFkam0yCAHXIAIC2qZ92XyxF5IYGwbXQ).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us, or contact the agencies providing the grant funding directly. We will work to keep you apprised of any other developments.