NEWS

From the Illinois State Senate

State Senator John Sullivan, 47th Legislative District

For Immediate Release: December 5, 2012

SPRINGFIELD, IL – State Senator John Sullivan (D-Rushville) is notifying western Illinois fire departments of three grant opportunities: federal Fire Prevention and Safety Grants, grants for rural volunteer fire departments and the Illinois Fire Marshal's Small Equipment Grant Program.

Applications for the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants may be submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) between December 17, 2012, and January 18, 2013. Grants will pay for community outreach activities aimed at preventing fires and related injuries among high-risk groups. Grants may also fund programs that improve firefighter safety and wellbeing. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has also received federal funds for fire protection - $230,000 for rural volunteer fire departments. The deadline to apply for these funds is March 15, 2013.

The Small Equipment Grant Program helps fire departments with few resources purchase items such as vehicle rescue equipment, communication devices and protective equipment for firefighters. Departments must submit applications for these state-funded grants by January 31, 2013. The program will distribute a total of $2 million.

"These are excellent opportunities, especially for cash-strapped rural and small-town fire departments," Sen. Sullivan said. "Fire chiefs and firefighters, many of them volunteers, not only respond to emergencies but also take on the task of educating the public about fire hazards. Departments need to be able to fund public outreach as well as equipment and training to keep their own personnel safe."

Application instructions and detailed information about the grants are available at http://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program (Fire Prevention and Safety Grants), http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/news/ (IDNR Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program) and

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http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/fireservice/grantsloans.aspx (Small Equipment Grants). Departments needing further assistance are encouraged to contact one of Sen. Sullivan's offices at (309) 833-5526 (Macomb) or (217) 222-2295 (Quincy).

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Grant program	Awarding agency	Purpose	Deadline
Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program	FEMA	Public outreach, firefighter safety	1/18/13
Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program	IDNR	Fire protection in rural areas	3/15/13
Small Equipment Grants	IL Fire Marshal	Equipment purchases	1/31/13

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