

3.3 Training Tuition Grant Guidelines for Firefighter Training

Tuition grants are subject to the following standards.

3.3.1 Approved Courses

Courses certified by the TCFP, the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas (SFFMA), and/ or the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) are eligible. Courses leading to the following firefighter certifications and credentials are eligible:

- Structural Firefighting
- Wildland Firefighting
- Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting
- Marine Fire Fighting
- Industrial Fire Fighting
- Rescue
- Driver/ Operator
- Fire Inspector
- Fire Instructor
- Fire Investigator
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Fire Officer
- First Responder/ Emergency Care Attendant (ECA)
- First Responder/ Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
- Hazardous Materials Technician
- Incident Command System
- Public Fire Educator
- Critical Incident Stress Management

Other courses in addition to those shown above may also be eligible, including online courses. Most fire-related courses offered by the TEEX ESTI are eligible, with some exceptions. Training leading to the EMT or Paramedic credential is not eligible. Training leading to a law enforcement certification is not eligible. Non-fire related courses are not eligible.

NWCG courses, other than S-130 and S-190, must be taught by an NWCG member agency. NWCG courses not offered or sanctioned by an NWCG member agency are not eligible for grant assistance.

All training courses must be taught within the State of Texas.

3.3.2 Approved Schools

Most programs administered by state agencies and state universities are approved, provided they are certified by TCFP, SFFMA, or NWCG.

Most regional schools are approved, provided the curriculum is certified by TCFP, SFFMA, or NWCG.

Training schools and courses not leading to a certification by the SFFMA, TCFP, or qualifications under NWCG "Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide" may not be approved.

3.3.3 Instructors

Training must be conducted by a lead instructor holding the Texas Instructor I credential or higher.

NWCG training must be conducted by a qualified lead instructor holding qualifications as required by the NWCG Field Manager's Course Guide, PMS 901-1.

3.3.4 Other Approved Conferences and Training

The program provides reimbursement grants for registration fees for attendance at the following conferences:

- Industrial Fire World Annual Conference
- SFFMA Annual Conference
- Texas Association of Fire Educators (TAFE) Annual Conference
- Texas Fire Chiefs Association Annual Conference
- Texas State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts (SAFE-D) Conference
- TDEM Texas Emergency Management Conference

Most fire related conferences offered by TEEX-ESTI are eligible. The program provides reimbursement grants for completion of the Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Course licensed by the Texas Department of Agriculture

3.3.5 Limitations

Grant assistance is not available for reimbursement of transportation, meals, or lodging expenses. However, Texas A&M Forest Service utilizes federal funds for dorm lodging and meal card grants at the TEEX – Municipal Fire School. To be considered for federal funds, applicants must meet **all** of the following federal requirements.

1. Department must serve a rural area or rural community with a population of 10,000 or less.
2. Identified as NIMS adopted with TDEM.
3. 80% or more of the department's emergency response personnel must be volunteers.
4. Department must not be debarred, suspended, or declared ineligible by any Federal department or agency to participate in a federal transaction.

Upon award, grant recipients will receive an AD-1048 Certification Letter that must be completed and returned for final grant approval.

Training tuition grants are provided up to a maximum of \$140 per day, not to exceed \$700 per trainee per school.

The maximum amount of training tuition grant assistance a department may receive in a fiscal year (September through August) is \$15,000.

An application for a training tuition grant must be received by Texas A&M Forest Service before the course start-date for both in person and online courses. An application received on or after the course start-date is not eligible for grant assistance.

3.3.6 Training Tuition Payments

Grant reimbursement payments for tuition will be made directly to the grant recipient.

Dorm lodging and meal card expenses at the TEEX Summer Municipal Fire School may be eligible for reimbursement, provided the department is federal funds eligible.