

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

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APR 05 2019

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Scanned to Erik H.

April 1, 2019

Dear Grant Applicant,

The application period for matching funds through the federally funded Rural Fire Capacity (RFC) program, formerly known as Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program (US Forest Service) is now open. Completed applications must be received by **May 17, 2019**. The application may be found on the website: www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans, select "Fire Grants". There is also the opportunity to apply online this year through a link on the website. **Funding is conditional upon available allocations to this program.**

Single applications representing county-wide fire organizations receive priority. Complete one Appendix A (page 4 & 5 of application) in detail for each individual department and list the project for that department. At the top of each Appendix A, please write the name of the organization that corresponds to the appendix. For county-wide projects (a project that benefits all departments within a county; i.e. repeater system), include one Appendix A and note that it covers all the departments listed in the main body of the application.

As in the past, projects with wildland fire emphasis will receive priority as will county-wide applications. Communications equipment should be capable of integrating with state and federal firefighting forces (P-25, analog and narrow-band). Construction or improvement of fire stations for housing equipment, normal operational expenses and maintenance do not qualify for RFC funding. Incomplete applications or those missing elements may not be considered, so please look them over carefully and do not rely on last year's application. **Please review the 2019 Purchasing Guideline for allowed/not allowed purchases; wildland projects will receive priority for these funds.**

The RFC grant has been an excellent source for local fire organizations and we encourage your participation. These grants have benefited all 56 counties within Montana. We appreciate the work involved in coordinating the departments within a county and combining the applications so that the grant funding is balanced and fair. Although most people are not aware of the effort it takes to complete this process, the benefits of how you have put these funds to practical use is obvious to those in the fire community.

More details are available by contacting your local DNRC office, by calling me at (406) 542-4267 or on the internet at www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans. If access to the internet is not available, please call or email me at rheablankenship@mt.gov, to obtain an application package.

Rhea Blankenship

RHEA BLANKENSHIP
Rural Fire Capacity Specialist
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Forestry Division