Volunteer Firefighter Stipend Program

August 9, 2024

GML 200-aa

- Regulation 9 NYCRR Part 215 – Purpose:
  - Implementation of payment of a training stipend to volunteer firefighters for the completion of certain training
  - OFPC authorized to administer stipends to volunteer firefighters with state funding
  - Authorizes volunteer fire departments to pay a local stipend, subject to available local funding, for certain courses identified by OFPC.
  - NYS Register Regulation can be found starting on page 4: https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2024/03/030624.pdf

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State Funded Stipend Program

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Firefighter Eligibility

- Firefighter:
  - Must be volunteer firefighter
  - Must be a "Member of Good Standing" per the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)
  - "Member in Good Standing" shall mean a firefighter that is responding to emergency incidents, attends meetings and training sessions, and meets the minimum qualifications, as determined by the Authority Having Jurisdiction over the Fire Department.

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Fire Department Eligibility

- Must have submitted incident data through the Fire Reporting System, per GML 204-d, for the prior reporting year

- Submit Fire Department Demographics to OFPC annually on the OFPC Form, which includes

  – Fire station addresses (including substations)

  – Number of interior firefighters

  – Number of exterior firefighters

  – Name and contact information of Fire Chief and their assistants/deputies

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Annual Fire Department Demographics Form

Stipend Conditions and Requirements

- Stipend may only be awarded to individuals for a first-time completion a qualifying course

- Student will not qualify for the State Stipend if they repeat a course or take a course equivalent to a course for which they already received a State Stipend

- Any firefighter that receives a Local Training Stipend cannot receive a State Stipend for the same or equivalent course

- **The qualifying course must have been completed <u>on or after August 31, 2023.</u>**

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Stipend Conditions and Requirements Cont.

- State Stipends will be prioritized based on the date OFPC receives a **COMPLETE** application

- All course equivalents must be reviewed through OFPC's process **PRIOR** to submission of a stipend application (OFPC-Standards@dhses.ny.gov)

- Awards of the State Stipend is subject to the available allocated funds.

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Qualifying Courses and Stipend Amounts

- ## $750.00
  - 2021 BASIC EXTERIOR FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS W/HMFRO (01-05-0101) **OR**
  - 2021 BEFO W/HMFRO (BLENDED LEARNING) (01-05-0103)

- ## $1250.00
  - 2021 SCBA/INTERIOR FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS-FF1 (01-05-0102)

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Qualifying Courses and Stipend Amounts

- **$1000.00**
  - FIRE OFFICER I (NFPA 1021-2020 ED.) w/FSTFAC (01-11-0176) **OR**
  - FIRE OFFICER I – SUPERVISING FIRE OFFICER MODULE SERIES (01-11-0154)

- **$2000.00**
  - 2021 BEFO-SCBA/IFO-FF1 (BLENDED LEARNING) (01-05-0104)

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Process to Submit Application

Applications for a State Fire Training Stipend must be submitted by the Volunteer Firefighter's Fire Department to OFPC and must include, but are not limited to, the following components:

- Signed statement (OFPC Endorsement Form) from the Fire Chief of the Fire Department, or his or her designee, that:
  – the Volunteer Firefighter is an active firefighter and Member in Good Standing;
  – the Volunteer Firefighter was authorized by the Fire Department to take the course; **and**
  – the Volunteer Firefighter successfully completed the course;
- a Substitute W-9 form, if not already submitted during course registration.

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(08/23)

FIRE DEPARTMENT ENDORSEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW YORK STATE FIRE TRAINING STIPEND

As the Fire Chief/Chief Officer of the _____ Fire Department/Company, I submit the volunteer firefighter(s) listed below have completed one or more of the specific fire training programs eligible for payment of a State Fire training stipend, administered or obtained equivalency by the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC).

By signing below, I, _____, am endorsing to the following:

- I am currently the Fire Chief/Chief Officer of the _____ Fire Department/ Company.

The firefighter(s) listed on the attached sheet have successfully completed one (or more) of the following courses on or after August 31, 2023.

- 2021 BASIC EXTERIOR FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS W/HMFRO (01-05-0101)
- 2021 SCBA/INTERIOR FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS-FF1 (01-05-0102),
- 2021 BEFO W/HMFRO (BLENDED LEARNING) (01-05-0103)
- 2021 BEFO-SCBA/IFO-FF1 (BLENDED LEARNING) (01-05-0104),
- FIRE OFFICER I (NFPA 1021-2020 ED.) w/FSTFAC (01-11-0176)
- FIRE OFFICER I - SUPERVISING FIRE OFFICER MODULE SERIES (01-11-0154)

- The firefighter(s) have not previously completed the same or equivalent training at an earlier date and location with the fire department or another entity.

- The firefighter(s) are not being paid a stipend or other compensation by another Fire Department for the same or equivalent training being submitted on this form.

- The firefighter(s) listed below respond to emergency calls, attend required departmental training drills and exercises, including annual OSHA training, and comply with all fire department criteria for active membership in good standing per the department's rules and by-laws.

Additionally, I confirm that the _____ Fire Department/Company did participate in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for the previous calendar year and has or will submit annually the Fire Department Demographics form.

Print Name: _____ Title/Rank: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please submit this form and required documentation to OFPC-Stipend@dhses.ny.gov

Student Completions:

The full legal name of student - *last name, first name, middle initial*	Student ID #
	N Y
☐ Students Signed W-9 Form Included	Sponsoring Agency of course:

Course Completed:
- ☐ (01-05-0101)   Date of Completion: _____
- ☐ (01-05-0102)   Date of Completion: _____
- ☐ (01-05-0103)   Date of Completion: _____
- ☐ (01-05-0104)   Date of Completion: _____
- ☐ (01-11-0176)   Date of Completion: _____
- ☐ (01-11-0154)   Date of Completion: _____
- ☐ Equivalency: (above reference course number)

The full legal name of student - *last name, first name, middle initial*	Student ID #
	N Y
☐ Students Signed W-9 Form Included	Sponsoring Agency of course:

Course Completed:
- ☐ (01-05-0101)   Date of Completion: _____
- ☐ (01-05-0102)   Date of Completion: _____
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- ☐ (01-05-0104)   Date of Completion: _____
- ☐ (01-11-0176)   Date of Completion: _____
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- ☐ (01-05-0104)   Date of Completion: _____
- ☐ (01-11-0176)   Date of Completion: _____
- ☐ (01-11-0154)   Date of Completion: _____
- ☐ Equivalency: (above reference course number)

Fire Chief Endorsement Form

Substitute W-9

- W-9 Forms will be on Acadis upon registration of the qualifying courses
- Students can submit with registration
- Those that already have completed or registered for the courses can find the W-9 on our website

Process Cont.

- Applications must be submitted on OFPC Forms

- Application paperwork must be submitted to OFPC via email: OFPC-Stipend@dhses.ny.gov

- Upon process of the application, the volunteer firefighter student will receive the funds directly from the state

Process Cont.

- In the event the Fire Chief does not submit the application within one year of completion of the qualifying training, the Authority Having Jurisdiction may submit on behalf of the student.
  - This section does not have to be exercised if both the chief and the AHJ agree and want to use the stipend program as a retention program and prefer to wait to submit for the stipend after more than one year to ensure the member is a "member in good standing".

Fire Department Responsibility

- It is not up to the SFI to ensure that the firefighter is eligible for the stipend.

- The fire department must meet the eligibility requirements for the program.

- Once the student successfully completes one of the applicable courses, it is up to the local FD to determine when the chief endorses the firefighter's application for the stipend.

- The firefighter must be a member of good standing per their agency policies.
  - OFPC and the SFI is not responsible to make that determination.

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Stipend Information

- Website (to go live March 6th):
  - https://www.dhses.ny.gov/new-york-state-volunteer-firefighter-stipend-program

- Any questions can be sent to:
  - OFPC-Stipend@DHSES.NY.GOV

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Questions