

Fall 2026 Fire Protection District Eligibility & Grant Criteria

Description:

Boulder County's Grant Program, funded by the Emergency Services Sales and Use Tax, provides financial support for fire protection districts in the county's rural and mountain areas. The grants can be applied toward:

- Equipment and capital purchases and upgrades.
- Specialized training for emergency personnel.
- Operational enhancements to improve response capabilities.
- Infrastructure improvements to better support emergency services.

Projects must align with one of the categories above. If your district also serves areas outside Boulder County, your application must show how the funding will be used specifically within Boulder County.

Eligibility & Grant Criteria:

Eligible Applicants:

- **Fall 2026 Grant Round:** Fire districts/departments that provide emergency services in the mountain and rural areas of Boulder County. ([Link to Apply](#))
- **Please only submit ONE application per agency** (requests for multiple items should be included in the same application.)

Grants Criteria:

- All-inclusive one-time grants only (no multi-year or ongoing grants).
- Awarded grants do not require repayment but must be substantiated with receipts within one year of funding.
- Cooperative and cross-organization grant applications and proposals that enhance coordination between agencies are encouraged.
- The availability of matching requirements or matching funds should be noted in the application but is not a requirement for funding.
- Equity and inclusion are core values in Boulder County. Please describe how your proposal reflects these values and benefits all community members.

Deadline to Apply/Due Date:

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026.

Q&A:

How much money is anticipated for the Fall 2026 Grant Round?

Boulder County anticipates that \$2 million will be available for distribution for the Fall 2026 Grant Program. The fall grant cycle is for rural and mountain fire districts that assist with emergency response operations.

Is there a limit to how much a fire district can apply for?

There is no limit to a fire district's request for the fall 2026 grant round, but bear in mind that more than 20 eligible agencies can apply for grants in this cycle. (See the [list of past awarded grants](#) by agency, type or service, and year.)

Since 2023, Boulder County has allocated more than \$5 million from the Emergency Services Sales Tax to fire protection districts. Individual fire district grant amounts have ranged from \$16K to \$202K. Over the past three years, the average size grant has been \$92K and the median size grant has been \$85K.

What criteria does the selection committee use when reviewing applications?

Grant recommendations are based on several factors, including:

- The need for the proposed project or funding.
- The size of the agency or district and the financial resources available to it.
- The number of applications received.
- Whether the agency received a grant in the previous grant cycle.
- Whether the amount requested is reasonable and clearly explained.

Note: Grant requests may be fully or partially funded. If your request includes multiple items or projects, please list them in priority order so we know which are most important to your agency.

Who will decide how the funding is distributed?

The funds available under the Grant Program are at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners and will be determined on an annual basis. The Emergency Services Grant Program Advisory Committee, comprised of Boulder County residents, makes recommendations to the county commissioners on grant funding.

Funding will be awarded on a project-to-project basis depending upon described need, strategic value, and available funding. Boulder County reserves the right to award full or partial funding to successful applicants. Funding must be spent within one year.