



Support the State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance Programs



The State Fire Assistance (SFA) and Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) programs provide crucial financial assistance to states and local fire departments for wildland fire detection, mitigation, and suppression on all land ownerships.

Investments in state and local wildland firefighters make a difference. These men and women are the first to arrive at wildfires (regardless of who owns the land) nearly 80 percent of the time, and when properly equipped, can suppress them more efficiently and safely.

In FY 2018, the SFA and VFA programs helped train 119,078 firefighters (97,210 state and 21,868 local) and provide them with \$17 million worth of new or upgraded firefighting equipment. Additionally, SFA provided over \$28 million in funding for hazardous fuels treatments, directly benefiting 1,065 communities in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), and roughly \$3.7 million in assistance that supported 3,882 community risk assessments and 2,873 fire management planning projects.

Also in FY 2018, the VFA program helped provide mitigation assistance to an additional 13,959 communities and establish or expand 48 volunteer fire departments. Community preparedness and adequate suppression capacity are crucial to mitigating wildfire risk: VFA and SFA are critically important to both.

In FY22, the nation's state and territorial foresters recommend allocating \$88.5 million (including \$79 million for program work) to SFA and \$20 million to VFA to ensure state and local firefighters have the capacity they need to reduce wildfire risk to people and property nationwide.