Support the State Fire Capacity and Volunteer Fire Capacity Programs

The State Fire Capacity (SFC) and Volunteer Fire Capacity (VFC) programs—formally known as 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.

In 2021, roughly 59,000 wildland fires burned more than 7.1 million acres across the United States. Federal 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% of the time, and when properly equipped, can suppress them more efficiently and safely.

In fiscal year (FY) 2021, SFC provided over $18 million in funding for hazardous fuels management, which directly treated 93,606 acres and allowed partners to treat an additional 219,770 acres. Another $6 million in SFC assistance was provided to conduct 2,053 wildfire risk assessments and fire management planning projects in 2,853 communities. In all, SFC helped nearly 12,000 communities manage wildfire risk and trained 74,300 wildland firefighters in 2021 alone.

The VFC program provides support to volunteer fire departments protecting communities with populations of 10,000 or fewer residents. According to the Forest Service, the VFC program provided assistance to 10,135 communities, trained 20,220 firefighters, expanded or organized 103 fire departments, and purchased, rehabilitated, or maintained over $12 million in equipment in FY 2021.

In FY 2023, the nation's state foresters recommend appropriating $79 million to SFC and $21 million to VFC to ensure state and local firefighters have the capacity they need to reduce wildfire risk to people and property nationwide.

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