



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.

In 2022, roughly 68,988 wildland fires burned more than 7.5 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) 2022, SFA provided over \$15 million in funding for hazardous fuels management, which directly treated 84,297 acres and allowed partners to treat an additional 196,942 acres. Another \$4.4 million in SFA assistance was provided to conduct 2,723 wildfire risk assessments and fire management planning projects in 2,722 communities. In all, SFA helped nearly 11,480 communities manage wildfire risk and trained 40,477 wildland firefighters in FY 2022 alone.

The VFA program provides support to volunteer fire departments protecting communities with populations of 10,000 or fewer residents. According to the Forest Service, the VFA program provided assistance to 11,372 communities, trained 15,335 firefighters, expanded or organized 55 fire departments, and purchased, rehabilitated, or maintained over \$11.6 million in equipment in FY 2022.

In FY 2024, the nation's state foresters recommend appropriating \$79 million to SFA and \$22 million to VFA to ensure state and local firefighters have the capacity they need to reduce wildfire risk to people and property nationwide.