

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**National Institutes of Health****National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders; Notice of Closed Meeting**

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors, NIDCD.

The meeting will be closed to the public as indicated below in accordance with the provisions set forth in section 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended for the review, discussion, and evaluation of individual intramural programs and projects conducted by the NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DEAFNESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DISORDERS, including consideration of personnel qualifications and performance, and the competence of individual investigators, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Board of Scientific Counselors, NIDCD.

Date: March 22, 2018.

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate personal qualifications and performance, and competence of individual investigators.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Building 31, Room 3C02, 31 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Andrew J. Griffith, Ph.D., MD, Director, Division of Intramural Research, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, 35A Convent Drive, GF 103, Rockville, MD 20892, 301-496-1960, griffita@nidcd.nih.gov.

Information is also available on the Institute's/Center's home page: <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/about/groups/bsc/>, where an agenda and any additional information for the meeting will be posted when available.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.173, Biological Research Related to Deafness and Communicative Disorders, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: February 6, 2018.

Sylvia L. Neal,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2018-02718 Filed 2-9-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**Coast Guard**

[Docket No. USCG-2018-0043]

Towing Safety Advisory Committee; Vacancies

AGENCY: U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Request for applications.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Coast Guard seeks applications for membership on the Towing Safety Advisory Committee. This Committee advises the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security on matters relating to the shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety.

DATES: Completed applications should reach the U.S. Coast Guard on or before April 10, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Applicants should send a cover letter expressing interest in an appointment to the Towing Safety Advisory Committee that also identifies which membership category the applicant is applying under, along with a résumé detailing the applicant's experience via one of the following methods:

- *By Email:* Kenneth.j.doyle@uscg.mil
- *By Fax:* 202-372-8379; ATTN: Mr. Kenneth J. Doyle, Alternate Designated Federal Officer; or
- *By Mail:* Mr. Kenneth J. Doyle, Alternate Designated Federal Officer, Commandant (CG-OES-2), U.S. Coast Guard Stop 7509, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20593-7509.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Kenneth J. Doyle, Alternate Designated Federal Officer of the Towing Safety Advisory Committee; Telephone 202-372-1363; or Email at Kenneth.J.Doyle@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Towing Safety Advisory Committee is a Federal Advisory Committee which operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5, United States Code, Appendix. The Towing Safety Advisory Committee was established under authority of the Act in the Department of Transportation, (Pub. L. 96-380), which was amended by section 621 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, (Pub. L. 111-281); see 33 U.S.C. 1231a. The Committee advises the Secretary of Homeland Security on matters relating to the shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety. This advice also assists the U.S. Coast Guard in formulating the position of the

United States regarding the towing industry in advance of the International Maritime Organization meetings.

It is expected that the Committee will meet at least twice a year in cities with large towing centers of commerce and populated by high concentrations of towing industry and related businesses. It may also meet for extraordinary purposes. Its subcommittees may also meet to consider specific tasks as required. The Committee and its subcommittees may conduct intercessional telephonic meetings when necessary, in response to specific U.S. Coast Guard tasking.

Each Towing Safety Advisory Committee member serves a term of office of up to 3 years. Members may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. All members serve without compensation from the Federal Government; however, they may receive travel reimbursement and per diem.

We will consider applications for the following five positions that will become vacant on September 30, 2018:

1. Two positions representing the barge and towing industry, reflecting a regional geographical balance;
2. One position representing the offshore mineral and oil supply vessel industry;
3. One position representing shippers; and,
4. One position drawn from the general public to serve as a Special Government Employee.

To be eligible, applicants should have particular expertise, knowledge, and experience regarding shallow-draft inland, coastal waterway, and offshore, navigation and towing safety.

If you are selected as a member drawn from the general public, you will be appointed and serve as a Special Government Employee as defined in section 202(a) of Title 18, United States Code. As a candidate for appointment as a Special Government Employee, applicants are required to complete a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 450). The Coast Guard may not release the reports or the information in them to the public except under an order issued by a Federal Court or as otherwise provided under the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Only the Designated U.S. Coast Guard Ethics Official or his or her designee may release a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report. Applicants can obtain this form by going to the website of the Office of Government Ethics (www.oge.gov), or by contacting the individual listed above in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Registered lobbyists are not eligible to serve on Federal Advisory Committees

in an individual capacity. See “Revised Guidance on Appointment of Lobbyists to Federal Advisory Committees, Boards and Commissions” (79 FR 47482, August 13, 2014). Registered lobbyists are lobbyists as defined in Title 2 U.S.C. 1602 who are required by Title 2 U.S.C. 1603 to register with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The position we list for a member from the general public would be someone appointed in their individual capacity and would be designated a Special Government Employee as defined in 202 (a) of Title 18, United States Code.

The Department of Homeland Security does not discriminate in selection of Committee members on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disabilities and genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, or any other non-merit factor. The Department of Homeland Security strives to achieve a widely diverse candidate pool for all of its recruitment selections.

If you are interested in applying to become a member of the Committee, send your cover letter and resume to Mr. Kenneth J. Doyle, Alternate Designated Federal Officer of the Towing Safety Advisory Committee via one of the transmittal methods in the **ADDRESSES** section by the deadline in the **DATES** section of this notice. All email submittals will receive email receipt confirmation.

Dated: February 6, 2018.

Jeffrey G. Lantz,

Director of Commercial Regulations and Standards.

[FR Doc. 2018-02696 Filed 2-9-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Docket ID: FEMA-2018-0008]

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

ACTION: Notice of availability of grant application and application deadline.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, as amended, the Administrator of FEMA is publishing this notice describing the

Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program application process, deadlines, and award selection criteria. This notice explains the differences, if any, between these guidelines and those recommended by representatives of the national fire service leadership during the annual meeting of the Criteria Development Panel, which was held February 27, 2017. The application period for the FY 2017 AFG Program was December 26, 2017, through February 2, 2018, and was announced on the AFG website at www.fema.gov/firegrants, as well as at www.grants.gov.

DATES: Grant applications for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program were accepted electronically at <https://portal.fema.gov>, from December 26, 2017, through February 2, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

ADDRESSES: Assistance to Firefighters Grant Branch, DHS/FEMA, 400 C Street SW, 3N, Washington, DC 20472-3635.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine Patterson, Branch Chief, Assistance to Firefighters Grant Branch, 1-866-274-0960.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The AFG Program awards grants directly to fire departments, nonaffiliated emergency medical services (EMS) organizations, and State fire training academies (SFTAs) for the purpose of enhancing the health and safety of first responders and improving their abilities to protect the public from fire and fire-related hazards.

Applications for the FY 2017 AFG Program will be submitted and processed online at <https://portal.fema.gov>. Before the application period starts, the FY 2017 AFG Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was published on the AFG website. The AFG website provides additional information and materials useful to applicants including Frequently Asked Questions, a Get Ready Guide, and a Quick Reference Guide. Based on past AFG application periods, FEMA anticipates the receipt of 10,000 to 15,000 applications for the FY 2017 AFG Program, and the ability to award approximately 2,500 grants.

Congressional Appropriations

For the FY 2017 AFG Program, Congress appropriated \$345,000,000 (Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2017, Pub. L. 115-31). From this amount, \$310,500,000 will be made available for AFG awards. In addition, the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2229), requires that a minimum of 10 percent of available

funds be expended for Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (FP&S). FP&S awards will be made directly to local fire departments and to local, regional, State, or national entities recognized for their expertise in the fields of fire prevention and firefighter safety research and development. Funds appropriated for FY 2017 will be available for obligation and award until September 30, 2018.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 further directs FEMA to administer these appropriations according to the following requirements:

- *Career fire department:* Not less than 25 percent of available grant funds.
- *Volunteer fire department:* Not less than 25 percent of available grant funds.
- *Combination fire department and departments using paid-on-call firefighting personnel:* Not less than 25 percent of available grant funds.

- *Open Competition (career, volunteer, and/or combination fire departments and departments using paid-on-call firefighting personnel):* Not less than 10 percent of available grant funds awarded.

- *Emergency Medical Services Providers including fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations:* Not less than 3.5 percent of available grants funds awarded, with nonaffiliated EMS providers receiving no more than 2 percent of the total available grant funds.

- *State Fire Training Academies:* Not more than 3 percent of available grant funds shall be collectively awarded to State fire training academy applicants, with a maximum of \$500,000 per applicant.

- *Vehicles:* Not more than 25 percent of available grant funds may be used for the purchase of vehicles; 10 percent of those vehicle funds will be dedicated to the funding of ambulances. Vehicle funds will be distributed as equally as possible among urban, suburban, and rural community applicants.

- *Micro Grants:* This is a voluntary funding limitation choice made by the applicant for requests submitted within the Operations and Safety activity; it is not an additional funding opportunity. Micro Grants are awards that have a federal participation (share) that does not exceed \$25,000. Only fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations are eligible to choose Micro Grants, and the only eligible Micro Grants requests are for Training, Equipment, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and Wellness and Fitness activities. Applicants that select Micro Grants as a funding opportunity may receive additional consideration for