

**Background on Stress First Aid Intervention (SFAI) program, department stipend funds, and the appropriate use of the stipend funds for Maui County.**

Maui County Fire Department was selected to participate in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funded study to test the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's (NFFF) SFAI program. The goal of the SFAI program is to reduce the negative impacts of traumatic stresses on firefighters' behavioral and physical health.

The study is being conducted by a team of scientists from the Center for Fire, Rescue & EMS Health Research, which is part of the Institute for Biobehavioral Health Research at the National Development & Research Institutes, Inc. (NDRI). We have a long history conducting research hundreds of career and volunteer fire departments across the nation and in US territories.

To support participation and dissemination of the SFAI program, each participating department has been provided a \$40,000 stipend over the course of the study. The table below provides examples of activities that can be justifiably supported with these FEMA funds:

**Potential Stipend Spending Opportunities**

Below are potential avenues for spending stipend funds, although decisions about allocation of resources is solely at the discretion of the department. Suggestions have come from departments previously or currently implementing behavioral health programs. Additional ideas for spending are welcome.

Possible Activity	Estimated Cost
Overtime expenses for training/meetings	Varies by department
In person consultation with East Hartford Fire Department on developing a behavioral health program.	Travel cost to/from Hartford, CT, hotel, \$500/day consultant fee for 2 trainers
IAFF Behavioral Health Peer Counselor Training	\$7500/30 firefighters
Posters/flyers about resources, trainings, etc.	Varies by department
Program incentives (e.g. mugs, tshirts, etc.)	Varies by product
Additional trainings with local/national companies	Varies by training
Attendance at conferences with discussion of or a focus on behavioral health among first responders.	Varies by conference

Because each participating fire department is unique with respect to how it chooses to best address the behavioral health needs of its operational firefighters, departments are allowed to also generate potential ideas for these funds and discuss these ideas with NDRI investigators. However, the most common uses for these funds have been to purchase the IAFF Behavioral Health Peer Counselor Training Program and to cover overtime costs for trainings for interested firefighters or those that comprise the peer support team and to cover overtime costs for Health and Safety staff who are usually charged with leading departmental SFAI efforts but for whom this constitutes an additional duty.

RECEIVED AT BF MEETING ON 1-30-2018

*Budget Director; BF-61(13)*