

Chapter 5 - Funding

Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of available funding programs for local fire departments. It is meant to serve as a guide only and is not a comprehensive listing.

Federal Funding Programs

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program

Beginning in 2001, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is the first federal grant program specifically designed to provide direct funding to local municipal fire departments. The program is administered by the United States Fire Administration (USFA), which is located under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

All local fire departments nationwide are eligible to apply for this assistance. Federal and state fire agencies, including VDFP, however, are not eligible to apply for funding. Activities that are eligible under the Fire Act include fire operations and firefighter safety, fire prevention, emergency medical services, and the purchase of firefighting vehicles.

Table 29. Virginia's AFG Award Experience FFY 2001-2007

Federal Fiscal Year	Amount
FFY 2001	\$2,066,269
FFY 2002	\$8,790,202
FFY 2003	\$16,413,490
FFY 2004	\$16,998,252
FFY 2005	\$14,881,633
FFY 2006	\$8,317,849
FFY 2007	\$4,521,866

A detailed breakdown of Virginia's AFG experience (FFY 2001-2007) is found in Appendix VII.

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

SAFER awards grants directly to volunteer, combination, and career fire departments to help the departments increase their cadre of firefighters. Ultimately, the goal is for SAFER grantees to enhance their ability to attain 24-hour staffing, thus assuring their communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. The SAFER grants have two activities

that will help grantees attain this goal: 1) hiring of firefighters, and 2) recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters.

SAFER requires an overall non-federal match minimum (10, 20, 50, and 70 percent) in years one through four of the grant. SAFER was funded in the United States for FFY 2005 at \$64 million and was funded for FFY 2006 at \$76 million.

In 2005, the Virginia General Assembly appropriated \$250,000 from the general fund for FY 2006 to provide matching funds for localities participating in the SAFER Program.

Table 30. Virginia’s SAFER Award Experience FFY 2005-2006

Federal Fiscal Year	Amount
FFY 2005	\$2,091,400
FFY 2006	\$3,249,878

Additional Reports on Virginia’s SAFER experience (FFY 2005-2006) may be found in Appendix VIII.

Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grants

The Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grants are part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG). FP&S grants support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. The primary goal is to target high-risk populations and mitigate high incidences of death and injury. Examples of the types of projects supported by FP&S include fire prevention and public safety education campaigns, juvenile firesetter interventions, media campaigns, and arson prevention and awareness programs. In Fiscal Year 2005, Congress reauthorized funding for FP&S and expanded the eligible uses of funds to include Firefighter Safety Research and Development.

Table 31. Virginia’s FP&S Award Experience FFY 2004-2006

Federal Fiscal Year	Amount
FFY 2004	\$1,069,978
FFY 2005	\$2,764,551
FFY 2006	\$4,110,000

For more information on Virginia’s FP&S experience (FFY 2004-2006), please see Appendix IX.

State Homeland Security Grants

State Homeland Security Grants administered by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management with federal funds from the Department of Homeland Security are a new potential

source of funding for the fire service. Funding from these grants pass through localities to selected agencies. While some fire departments receive these funds designated for specific, dedicated uses, others do not. As a future source of dependable funding, the long term dependability of the grants is unknown.

State Funding Programs

Rescue Squad Assistance Fund

The Rescue Squad Assistance Fund, which is administered by the Office of Emergency Medical Services, provides approximately \$6.5 million to volunteer rescue squads or other emergency medical service organizations that operate on a non-profit basis exclusively for the benefit of the general public. The primary goal of this program is to financially assist non-profit EMS agencies and organizations to purchase EMS equipment and vehicles.

Fire Programs Fund

Description of Fund

The Fire Programs Fund, which was established in § 38.2-401 of the Code of Virginia, is derived from a 1 percent levy on insurance premiums for homeowners, marine, farm, miscellaneous property, and fire insurance.

Aid to Localities (ATL) Program

After committed fixed obligations, 75% of the Fund is annually distributed to 324 counties, cities, and incorporated towns within the Commonwealth as part of the Aid to Localities (ATL) program. ATL provides Virginia cities, towns, and counties funding to pay for firefighting equipment, personal protective clothing and gear, and training.

These funds may not be used to supplant or replace any other appropriations by counties, cities, and towns for fire service operations. ATL allocations are population based. Effective July 1, 2007 (FY 2008), the ATL minimum for towns is \$8,000, and the ATL minimum for counties and cities is \$16,000. Prior to July 1, 2006, the ATL minimums were \$6,000 for towns and \$12,000 for counties and cities. While the overall size of the Fire Programs Fund increased each year, the amount of funding available for the ATL program was level from FY 2002 to FY 2003 as a result of statewide budget reductions.

Table 32. Total ATL Distribution, Virginia, FY 2001-2008

Fiscal Year	Amount
FY 2001	\$9,247,021.00
FY 2002	\$10,277,263.00
FY 2003	\$10,303,723.00
FY 2004	\$11,334,128.75
FY 2005	\$14,604,601.52
FY 2006	\$16,654,699.00
FY 2007	\$18,091,829.00
FY 2008	\$19,539,031.00

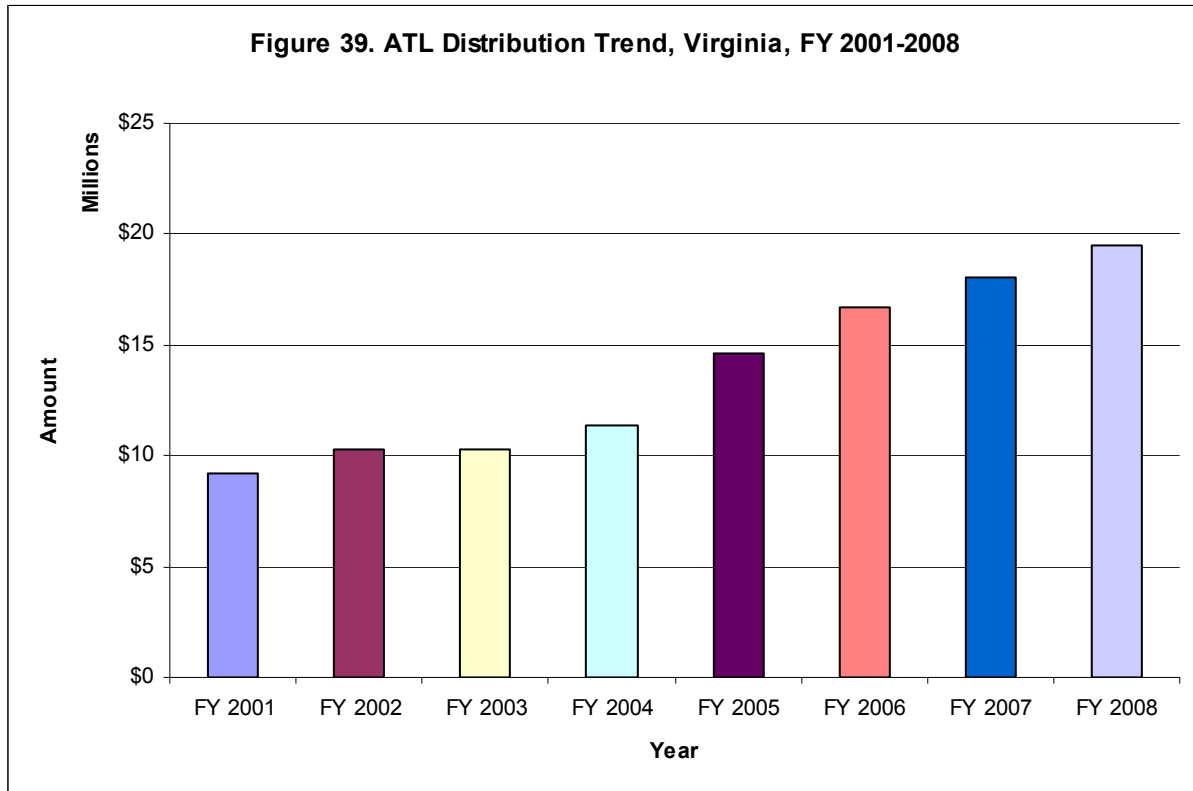


Table 33. ATL Distribution to All Counties, FY 2001-2008

Fiscal Year	Amount	Population
FY 2001	\$5,059,693.33	3,547,331
FY 2002	\$5,731,946.22	4,284,839
FY 2003	\$5,779,313.47	4,282,954
FY 2004	\$6,427,570.03	4,287,562
FY 2005	\$8,455,631.20	4,287,466
FY 2006	\$9,721,653.00	4,287,466
FY 2007	\$10,419,144.00	4,287,466
FY 2008	\$11,318,012.00	4,287,466

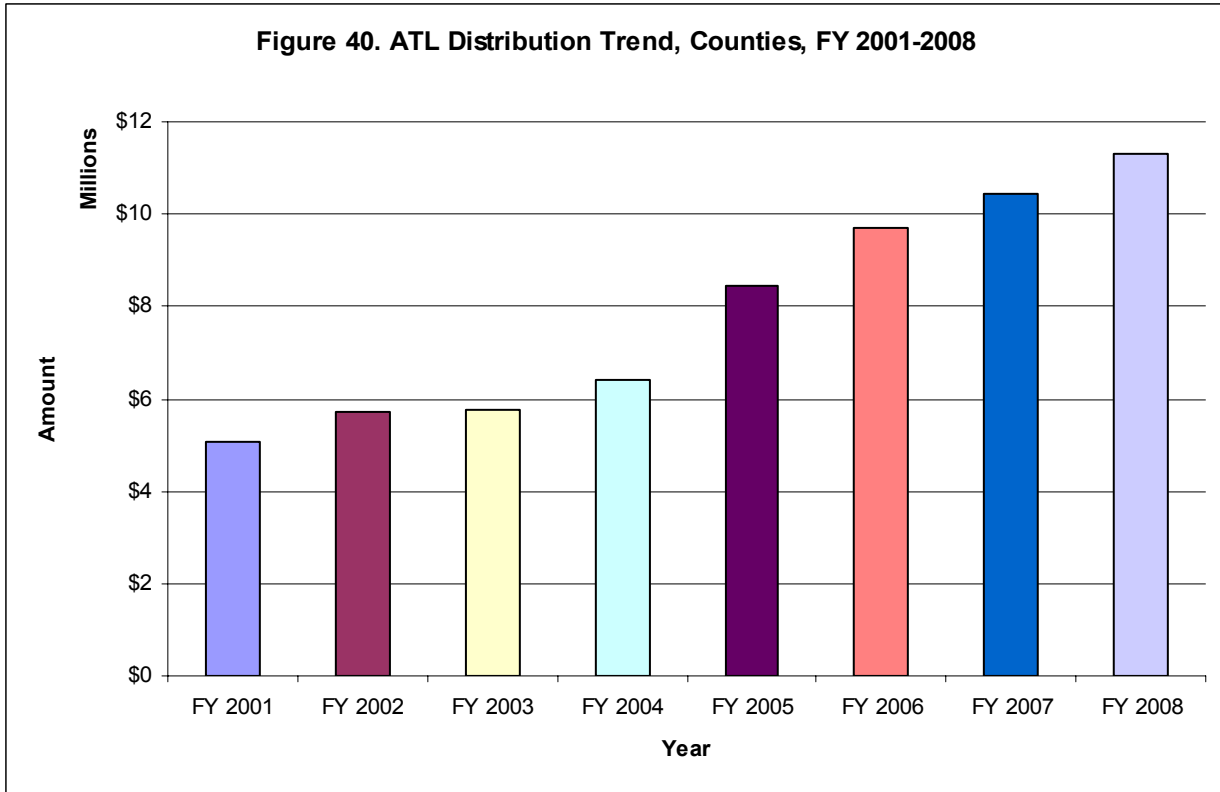


Table 34. Total ATL Distribution Summary, Counties, FY 2001-2008

Fiscal Year	Population		Allocation		Per Capita	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
FY 2001	37,340	16,508	\$53,229.64	\$23,444.55	\$1.48	\$1.42
FY 2002	45,104	19,973	\$60,336.07	\$26,447.02	\$1.42	\$1.32
FY 2003	45,087	19,973	\$60,835.19	\$26,768.26	\$1.43	\$1.34
FY 2004	45,136	19,973	\$67,658.53	\$29,801.98	\$1.57	\$1.49
FY 2005	45,136	19,973	\$89,006.64	\$39,334.20	\$2.01	\$1.97
FY 2006	45,131	6,630	\$102,333.19	\$15,020.81	\$2.30	\$2.27
FY 2007	45,131	19,973	\$109,675.20	\$48,445.43	\$2.49	\$2.43
FY 2008	45,131	19,973	\$119,136.96	\$52,650.69	\$2.69	\$2.64

Table 35. ATL Distribution to All Cities, FY 2001-2008

Fiscal Year	Amount	Population
FY 2001	\$3,201,220.75	2,245,124
FY 2002	\$3,210,794.23	2,353,905
FY 2003	\$3,182,961.03	2,353,890
FY 2004	\$3,526,310.40	2,348,863
FY 2005	\$4,632,009.81	2,349,410
FY 2006	\$5,325,936.35	2,349,410
FY 2007	\$5,709,426.00	2,349,410
FY 2008	\$6,200,039.00	2,349,410

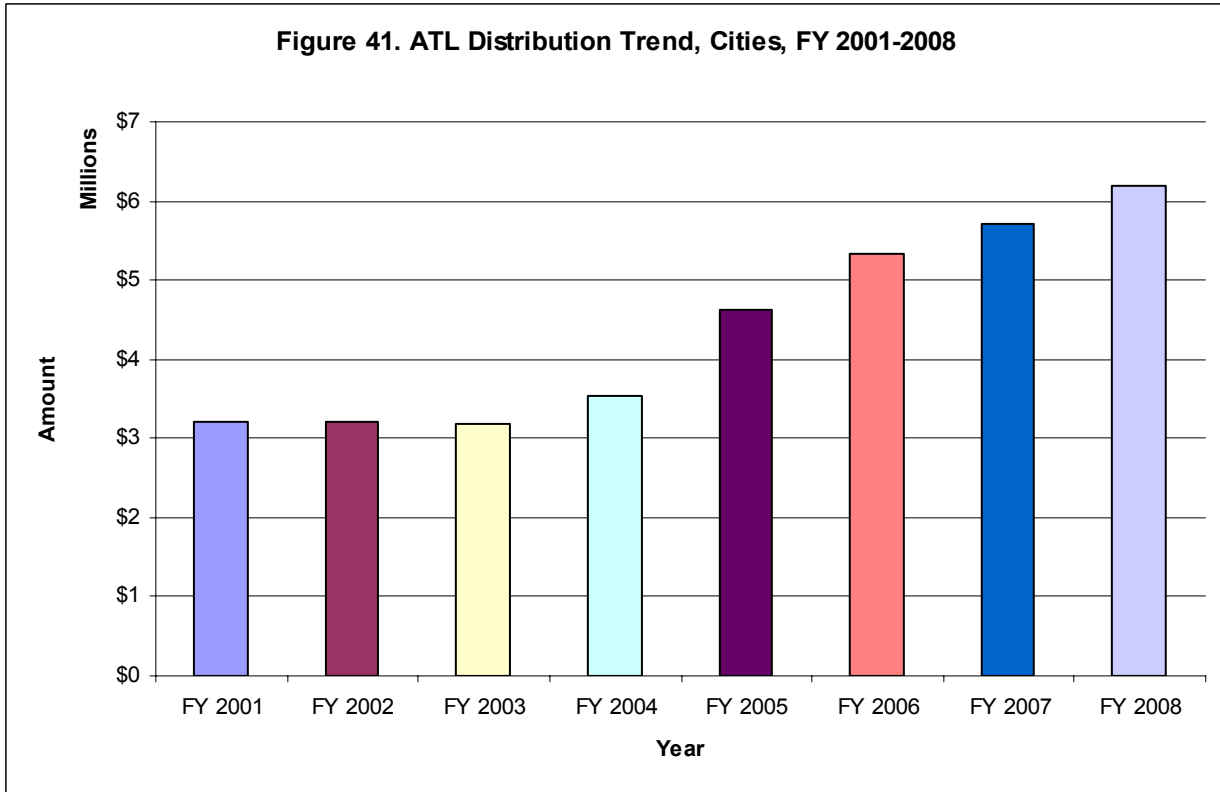


Table 36. Total ATL Distribution Summary, Cities, FY 2001-2008

Fiscal Year	Population		Allocation		Per Capita	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
FY 2001	57,454	21,947	\$81,826.17	\$31,168.98	\$1.47	\$1.42
FY 2002	60,357	22,354	\$82,328.06	\$31,041.07	\$1.48	\$1.39
FY 2003	60,357	22,354	\$81,614.39	\$29,959.33	\$1.47	\$1.34
FY 2004	60,230	22,354	\$90,418.22	\$33,239.81	\$1.59	\$1.49
FY 2005	60,230	22,354	\$118,769.48	\$43,871.63	\$2.00	\$1.97
FY 2006	60,241	65,269	\$136,562.47	\$147,872.00	\$2.29	\$2.27
FY 2007	60,241	22,227	\$146,395.54	\$54,034.00	\$2.49	\$2.43
FY 2008	60,241	22,227	\$158,975.36	\$58,724.00	\$2.68	\$2.64

Table 37. ATL Distribution to All Towns, FY 2001-2008

Fiscal Year	Amount	Population
FY 2001	\$986,106.57	396,742
FY 2002	\$1,334,522.45	439,771
FY 2003	\$1,341,448.50	441,678
FY 2004	\$1,380,248.31	442,069
FY 2005	\$1,516,960.51	442,154
FY 2006	\$1,607,109.00	442,154
FY 2007	\$1,963,258.00	442,154
FY 2008	\$2,020,981.00	442,154

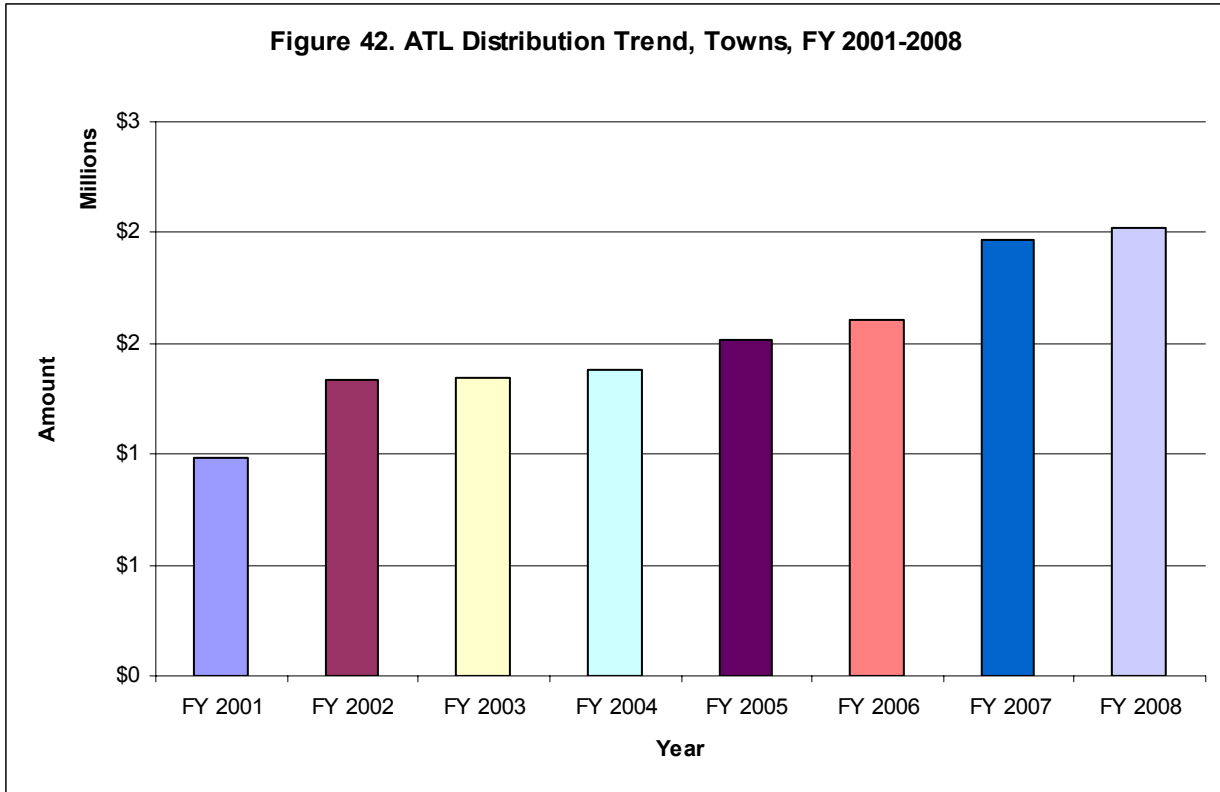


Table 38. Total ATL Distribution Summary, Towns, FY 2001-2008

Fiscal Year	Population		Allocation		Per Capita	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
FY 2001	2,102	993	\$5,158.46	\$4,000.00	\$7.85	\$3.84
FY 2002	2,312	1,008	\$6,992.22	\$6,000.00	\$11.80	\$5.85
FY 2003	2,319	1,008	\$6,965.52	\$6,000.00	\$11.06	\$5.64
FY 2004	2,327	1,008	\$7,264.46	\$6,000.00	\$11.95	\$5.96
FY 2005	2,327	1,008	\$7,978.43	\$6,000.00	\$12.33	\$5.96
FY 2006	2,327	995	\$8,458.47	\$6,000.00	\$12.08	\$6.03
FY 2007	2,327	1,000	\$10,332.94	\$8,000.00	\$15.99	\$8.00
FY 2008	2,327	1,000	\$10,636.74	\$8,000.00	\$16.02	\$7.88

Fire Services Grant Program

The Fire Services Grant Program (\$1,000,000 annually) provides development grants for the construction and/or repair of burn buildings as provided for by the Fire Programs Fund per *The Code of Virginia § 38.2-401*. These grants make up \$975,000 of the \$1 million Fire Services Grant Program, and are awarded by the Virginia Fire Services Board.

VFIRS Hardware Technology Grants

The remaining \$25,000 of the Fire Service Grant Program is awarded as Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS) Hardware Technology Grants. These grants provide localities up to \$1,000 to purchase computers to use in their reporting of fire incidents in VFIRS.

Virginia Dry Hydrant Grant Program

The Virginia Dry Fire Hydrant Grant Program is funded from the Fire Programs Fund and is administered through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Forestry and the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. It provides \$100,000 annually for the installation of dry fire hydrants into natural water supplies such as ponds or lakes, primarily in rural areas.