



For Immediate Release

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CONNECTICUT FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION RECEIVES SAFER GRANT *\$1.12 Million Will Assist Communities in Recruiting and Retaining Volunteer Firefighters*

August 31, 2016 | Glastonbury, Connecticut – The Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association (CFCA) proudly announces its receipt of a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Recruitment and Retention grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in the amount of approximately \$1.12 million. The grant will allow the CFCA to continue its partnership with the Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) team of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) in an effort to assist communities in achieving a viable and sustainable volunteer firefighting workforce. This will be the third phase of the CFCA VWS program, also referred to as Everyday Hero CT.

“The CFCA is proud to spearhead this program that sets out to increase the operational readiness of the Connecticut fire service as a whole, to further improve services to the residents and visitors of the state of Connecticut,” says CFCA President Michael Thurz. “The CFCA thanks all of the Connecticut Congressional Delegates for their continued support of the program.”

Phases I and II of the CFCA VWS program established the Everyday Hero CT program and yielded significant interest in the volunteer fire service throughout the state of Connecticut. Almost 300 new members joined the 15 departments selected to participate in the program. Those departments received recruitment and retention support from the CFCA through marketing campaigns, media assistance, mentoring programs, technology, and leadership training. Phase III will seek to improve recruitment and retention in Connecticut based on lessons learned and data acquired during the first two phases. It will be a multi-faceted approach that will benefit many Connecticut departments and eventually have a nationwide impact.

For more information about the CFCA visit www.connecticutfirechiefs.com. The Connecticut Volunteer Workforce Solutions website is available at www.everydayheroct.org.