



## **Emergency Response Equipment Grant Program**

The AgStar Fund for Rural America, the corporate giving program of AgStar Financial Services is proud to announce the AgStar Fund's Emergency Response Equipment Grant Program. The mission of the program is to support rural areas in AgStar's service area by funding emergency response equipment for volunteer fire, rescue or ambulance departments.

The AgStar Fund for Rural America was created to extend our company's commitment to the agricultural community. The trustees established the fund's mission as "Committed to enhancing the quality of life and future opportunities for rural residents and their communities." This special program underscores our dedication to agriculture and rural communities, and addresses the issues facing rural America.

Most volunteer departments serve small, rural communities and are quite often the only line of defense in those communities. Unfortunately, these departments are struggling to provide their members with adequate protective clothing and safety devices to protect their communities.

One of the largest problems faced by rural communities is funding essential services. Emergency response departments in rural areas are struggling on shoestring budgets, with many lacking adequate and up-to-date equipment. Even though many of these departments have the essentials, they can not always afford new technologies to upgrade or replace old equipment. This grant program is designed to help alleviate some of those financial constraints. This is an opportunity to fund, on a modest scale, some local departments.

AgStar knows how important emergency response volunteers are to rural communities' safety and well-being, and we want to make sure they are provided with the most up-to-date equipment.

Applications for grants, up to \$2,500, may be obtained from [agstar.com](http://agstar.com) starting July 15, 2006 until August 31, 2006. Departments can complete the grant form and file it electronically.

AgStar is committed to rural America and is proud to support the rural and agricultural communities where we operate. Through this grant program and the other programs of the AgStar Fund we are helping to ensure a strong future of rural America.



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### **Purpose of the Program:**

Emergency response departments in rural areas are struggling on shoestring budgets, with many lacking adequate and up-to-date equipment. Even though many of these departments have the essentials, they can't always afford new technologies to upgrade or replace old equipment. This grant program is designed to help alleviate some of those financial constraints.

**Sponsor:** AgStar Fund for Rural America

**Timeline:** Applications will be accepted July 15, 2006 through August 31, 2006.

### **Geographic Eligibility:**

We concentrate our giving programs in geographic areas where we have a significant business presence. All rural volunteer emergency response departments located in one of the 69 counties within AgStar's chartered territory are eligible to apply.

**Minnesota Counties:** Aitkin, Anoka, Benton, Blue Earth, Brown, Carlton, Carver, Cass, Chisago, Cook, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Dakota, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Hennepin, Houston, Itasca, Isanti, Jackson, Kanabec, Lake, LeSueur, McLeod, Martin, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted, Pine, Pipestone, Ramsey, Rice, Rock, St. Louis, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Stearns, Steele, Todd, Wabasha, Waseca, Washington, Watonwan, Winona, or Wright. **Wisconsin Counties:** Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Iron, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Rusk, St. Croix, Sawyer and Washburn.

### **Amount of Funding:**

A total of \$50,000 is available and the maximum grant amount is \$2,500/department.

### **Application Process:**

All applications must be submitted electronically via our website [www.agstar.com](http://www.agstar.com)

### **For more information contact:**

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