

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that he is sponsoring grant writing workshops with representatives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for local fire departments and EMS organizations to learn how they can receive federal funding through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program.

"These grant workshops provide our local fire departments and EMS organizations with the information they need to submit strong grant applications that will help them secure critical federal funds to purchase life-saving equipment," Hinchey said. "I strongly encourage all of our local fire and EMS departments to send a representative to these workshops so they can increase their likelihood of securing a federal grant. While the most important aspect of fire and EMS grants is the fact that they help pay for equipment that saves lives and keep our first responders safe, they have the added bonus of sparing local taxpayers from having to pay the full cost of much-needed gear."

Representatives from DHS will be on hand at the workshops to provide information and updates to fire and EMS officials on recent changes to the grant requirements along with suggestions on how local organizations can submit the strongest application possible. The event is open to all fire and emergency officials from the entire area.

Details for the workshops that Hinchey is sponsoring follow:

Saturday, March 1, 2008

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

10:00am-12:00pm

6:30-8:30pm

Highland Firehouse Community Room Ted Stroebele Recreational Center

25 Milton Avenue (off Route 9W) (Formerly the Neighborhood Facility)

Highland, New York

10 Jefferson Street

Monticello, New York

Hinchey has sponsored similar workshops in the past, which have been very successful. Since the fire grant program started in 2001, more than \$12 million in grants have been awarded to fire departments in the congressional district Hinchey represents. The application period for this year's AFG program is tentatively scheduled to begin in March. More information on the AFG program is available at www.firegrantsupport.com.