



2026 PREVENTION MATTERS GRANT PROGRAM

About Camp I Am Me Since 1989, Camp I Am Me has been dedicated to empowering burn survivors while preventing burn-related injuries and fire tragedies before they occur. Founded and supported by the Illinois fire service, Camp I Am Me serves as a statewide resource for burn survivor support, fire safety and burn prevention education, and collaboration with fire departments to reduce preventable fires, injuries and loss of life.

This grant program directly reflects Camp I Am Me's commitment to prevention by investing in local, department-led initiatives that address community-specific fire and burn risks throughout Illinois.

Prevention Matters Grant This program is designed to support Illinois fire departments in implementing or expanding effective fire safety and burn prevention programs that reduce the incidence and severity of fires and burn-related injuries within their communities.

Priority will be given to programs or projects that:

- Address identified local risk factors or data-driven needs
- Serve vulnerable or high-risk populations
- Demonstrate clear, measurable prevention outcomes
- Show sustainability beyond the grant period

General Guidelines This program is open to all Illinois fire departments (career, combination, and volunteer). Funds may be used for fire safety and burn prevention initiatives, including but not limited to:

- Smoke and carbon monoxide alarm installation programs
- Fire safety trailer purchase or rehabilitation
- Live fire or virtual safety simulators
- Youth fire setter intervention programs
- Anti-scald devices or hot water safety initiatives
- Home oxygen therapy fire-safe valves
- School-based fire safety education
- Targeted public education campaigns (mail, radio, TV, social media)
- Printed or digital educational materials

Grant requests must be no less than \$1,000 and not exceed \$5,000, while funds may be used in conjunction with other funding sources to support larger programs/projects. Approximately 4-6 grants will be awarded this cycle.

Fire departments may re-apply annually, provided all prior grant funds were fully expended and the previous project was completed.

Timetable

- Application Period – February 1-July 30, 2026
- Review Period – August 1-August 31, 2026
- Acceptance Period – September 1-September 15, 2026
- Award Presentation – October 8, 2026

Award Recognition & Reporting Expectations Grant recipients will be recognized at Camp I Am Me's Annual Fire Prevention Week Luncheon on Thursday, October 8, 2026 in Woodridge, Illinois. Awarded departments are requested to have a representative present to accept the award.

Funds must be utilized within 6 months of receipt for the approved project and upon completion, departments will be required to submit photos and/or media from the program or project. Camp I Am Me will highlight funded projects through its communications to showcase best practices and successful prevention efforts statewide.

Application Information

Fire Department Details

- Fire Department Name
- Department Type (career/combination/volunteer)
- Fire Chief Name
- Fire Chief Email Address
- Fire Department Mailing Address

Primary Point of Contact

- Name
- Title/Rank
- Email Address
- Telephone Number

Program/Project Narrative

1. **Project Description** Describe the program or project for which you are requesting funding. Include what will be implemented, where it will occur, and how it will operate.
2. **Community Need & Risk Factor** Explain the specific fire or burn risk(s) this project addresses. Reference local data, trends, past incidents, or community observations when available.
3. **Target Population** Does this program/project serve a vulnerable or high-risk population (e.g., children, older adults, low-income households, individuals with disabilities, non-English speaking residents)? If yes, describe the population and why they are at increased risk.
4. **Estimated Reach** Approximately how many individuals, households, or students will directly benefit from this project? Indicate whether the impact is one-time or ongoing.
5. **Partnerships & Collaboration** Will community partners be utilized? If yes, list partners (schools, senior centers, hospitals, nonprofits, housing authorities, businesses, etc.) and describe their role.

6. **Project Timeline** Provide a brief timeline outlining key milestones from award receipt through project completion.
7. **Desired Outcomes & Evaluation** What are the intended outcomes of this project? Describe how success will be measured (e.g., number of alarms installed, students educated, homes reached, pre/post surveys, reduction in incidents, referrals made).
8. **Sustainability** How will this program or initiative be sustained after grant funds are expended? If not ongoing, explain the lasting impact of the project.

Budget Information

1. **Project Expenses** List all anticipated expenses and briefly explain each cost.

Expense Item	Amount	Description
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2. **Project Income & Matching Support** List all anticipated income sources, including fire department contributions, in-kind support, other grants, or donations.

Funding Source	Amount	Status (Secured/Pending)
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Certifications & Acknowledgements

- Any funds received will be used solely for the approved fire safety/burn prevention project outlined in this application.
- The fire department agrees to complete the project within six months of receiving funds.
- The fire department agrees to participate in recognition activities at the completion of the project.

Authorized Designee Name

Authorized Designee Signature

Date

**Camp I Am Me reserves the right to request additional information or clarification during the review process.*

