



## Handlers' Grant for Non-SDF Trained Teams Frequently Asked Questions

To apply for the Handlers' Grant, contact SDF at [program@searchdogfoundation.org](mailto:program@searchdogfoundation.org)

### 1. What is the SDF Handlers' Grant program?

The Handlers' Grant is designed to help give US&R canine handlers operating in the FEMA & SUSAR systems the skills they need to be a better Canine Search Specialist upon deployment. The program was originally supported by a grant from the Bechtel Foundation in 2008 and only available to SDF-trained teams. SDF now maintains an annual budget of \$50,000 to serve this intended purpose and the SDF Handlers' Grant may be used by non-SDF trained US&R Handlers to fund very specific deployment-readiness requests (see #10 on opposite page).

### 2. Are there any requirements to meet?

Yes. All applicants must be in good standing with their Task Force, which your Canine Coordinator will be required to communicate to SDF. If a handler does not meet this requirement, his/her application will be denied by the Handlers' Grant Committee.

### 3. Are there deadlines?

Grant applications must be received 2 weeks prior to the training event you wish to attend. Each application is reviewed individually by the Handlers' Grant Committee on a first-come, first-serve basis until the budget limit of \$50,000 has been reached.

### 4. How does the award process work?

Once the Handlers' Grant Committee has discussed the application and made a decision, an SDF staff member will notify the applicant via email as to the outcome of their application. For those approved grants, a written notification and payment within two weeks of the committee's decision will be made, where applicable.



### 5. How much can I be awarded?

Individuals can be awarded up to \$1,000 per SDF fiscal year, which runs October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### 6. How do I apply?

Contact SDF via email for an application. Please send your completed application and a web link and/or any information about the specific training event you want to attend for the Committee to review to [program@searchdogfoundation.org](mailto:program@searchdogfoundation.org).

### 7. What is required after a grant has been funded?

Receipts are required within 30 days of the training event for reimbursement, unless otherwise specified. Additionally, we require a written description of how the funds were used and pictures that SDF has permission to use to show our supporters how donor dollars were spent.



### 8. Who are the Handlers' Grant Committee Members?

Tracy Darling (SDF), Kate Horwick (SDF), Teresa MacPherson (VA-TF1), Rhett Mauck (SDF), Andrew Pitcher (NE-TF1) and Cynthia Sato (CA-TF1).

### 9. What deployment-readiness training expenses can the Handlers' Grant be used for?

- Registration Fees
- Airfare
- Rental car/fuel
- Hotel
- Per diem reimbursement



### 10. What are qualified US&R training sites, events & groups?

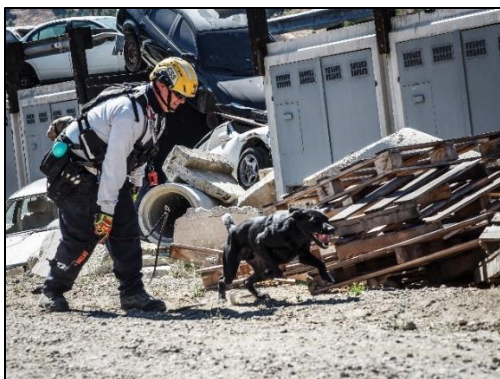
- SDF's National Training Center – Santa Paula, CA
- USAR Foundation – Memphis, TN (TN-TF1)
- TEEX – College Station, TX (TX-TF1)
- Crisis City Regional Training Center - Salina, KS – (Kansas Task Force K9)
- Muscatatuck Urban Training Center – Butlerville, IN (IN-TF1)
- West Metro Fire Rescue Training & Event Center - Lakewood, CO (CO-TF1)
- West Chicago FPD Regional Firefighter Academy – West Chicago, IL (IL-TF1)
- IronDog competitions
- Superfit Canine workshops

### 11. Are any other sites allowed?

Additional sites will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If handler would like to visit a site not on this list, check that it meets the criteria below and submit request to [program@searchdogfoundation.org](mailto:program@searchdogfoundation.org) for review by SDF's Handlers' Grant Committee.

### 12. What is the training site criteria to be considered?

- Site must meet minimum CE site requirements as set forth in the FEMA Handbook.
- Site must be associated with a qualified US&R group or agency.
- Preferred: Additional realistic training areas like buildings, collapse sites, vehicles, trains, planes, wide areas, etc.



### 13. The following are not considered training events and are not eligible for this grant:

- FEMA Certification Evaluation/ SUSAR Type I
- FEMA Foundation Skills Assessment/SUSAR Type II
- Standard training that your Task Force should budget for in their fiscal year.

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