

JANUARY 21, 2004

SCHAKOWSKY ANNOUNCES FIRE GRANTS FOR NILES AND MORTON GROVE

EVANSTON, IL - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today announced that the Niles and Morton Grove fire departments have been awarded much-needed federal funds at a time when local first responders are struggling to meet growing demands.

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The Homeland Security Department grants, provided under the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) program, could be used by the local fire departments, for example, to purchase new equipment, expand fire prevention and safety programs or to improve firefighter health and safety programs.

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Morton Grove received \$56,773 to purchase and install a vehicle exhaust extraction system on both village fire stations to reduce by up to 99% diesel exhaust.□ □

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Niles was awarded \$63,609 and the funds will be used to upgrade self-contained breathing equipment and to replace aging portable radios.□ The new radios would be equipped with an emergency identification feature to aid in the location of downed firefighters.□

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"Local budgets are stretched to the max, but firefighters and first responders continue to ensure our safety and security, whatever the cost.□ While these funds come at a critical time for our firefighters, I strongly believe that the Bush Administration must invest even more in local needs," Schakowsky said.