**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**
Washington, DC 20472

ECLEG JUL11'16 PM 1:19

June 30, 2016

Karen M. McCarthy
Clerk of the Legislature of Erie County
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

Thank you for your letter dated March 17, 2016, regarding the Firemen's Association of the State of New York, Inc.'s application (EMW-2015-FF-00361) for financial assistance under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants Program.

In FY 2015, Congress appropriated a total of $340 million to carry out the activities of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants Program. Funds for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants Program are awarded on a competitive basis and made directly to local fire departments and other eligible organizations. The criteria used to make an award determination are threefold: 1) whether the request meets the program's published priorities; 2) whether the applicant exhibits clear financial need; and 3) whether the application demonstrates tangible benefits from the use of requested funds.

The application period for the FY 2015 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants Program closed on March 25, 2016. Decisions on all applications received will begin following the panel reviews and will be made on a rolling basis until all available funds have been obligated. Once decisions are reached, each applicant will be directly notified of the outcome. For more information on the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants Program, please visit http://www.fema.gov/staffing-adequate-fire-emergency-response-grants.

I appreciate your interest in the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants Program and look forward to working with you on future homeland security issues. If you have any further questions or concerns, please have a member of your staff contact the FEMA Congressional Affairs Division at (202) 646-4500.

Regards,

Brian E. Kamoie
Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs