



## Nonprofit Security Grant Program: Preliminary Guidance Application Overview 101

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Point of Contact: Rob Goldberg, Senior Director, Legislative Affairs

[Rob.Goldberg@JFNA.org](mailto:Rob.Goldberg@JFNA.org)

**Before proceeding, if you are a New York-based applicant, please contact David Pollock, Associate Executive Director, and Director of Public Policy & Security, JCRC of New York, on all matters pertaining to the NSGP application process at: [pollockd@jrcrcny.org](mailto:pollockd@jrcrcny.org) <http://www.jrcrcny.org/security>. The below guidance is for all other applicants.**

**Administration:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

**Purpose:** The NSGP program supports physical security enhancements and other security related activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack and seeks to integrate the preparedness activities of nonprofit organizations with broader state and local preparedness efforts.

In FY 2019 (last year), priority is given to projects to enhance the protection of soft targets/crowded places and mitigate the loss of life and property against threats and hazards.

**Funding Opportunity:** There are two funding sources (grants) available to nonprofit organizations under NSGP. An organization would be eligible for one or the other depending on their physical location:

- Source 1-- The Nonprofit Security Grant Program - Urban Area (NSGP-UA): Available to nonprofit organizations located within one of the designated FY 2020 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) urban areas (TBD). Total available funding will be \$50 million. Thirty-one UASI areas were designated in FY 2019:

Phoenix Area (AZ); Anaheim/Santa Ana Area, Bay Area, Los Angeles/Long Beach Area, Riverside Area, Sacramento Area, San Diego Area (CA); Denver Area (CO); National Capital Region (DC, parts of MD and VA); Miami/Fort Lauderdale Area, Orlando Area, Tampa Area (FL); Atlanta Area (GA); Honolulu Area (HI); Chicago Area (IL); Baltimore Area (MD); Boston Area (MA); Detroit Area (MI); Twin Cities Area (MN) St. Louis Area (MO); Las Vegas Area (NV); Jersey City/Newark Area (NJ) New York City Area (NY); Portland Area (OR); Philadelphia Area, Pittsburgh Area (PA); Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington Area, Houston Area, San Antonio Area (TX); Hampton Roads Area (VA); Seattle Area (WA).

**Note: These designations only differ slightly from year-to-year. Once the FY 2020 Notice of Funding Opportunity is posted, we will update this list.**

- Source 2-- Nonprofit Security Grant Program - State (NSGP-S): Available to nonprofit organizations located outside of FY 2020 UASI-designated urban areas. Total available funding will be \$40 million. In FY 2019, each state had a minimum designated allocation.

**Period of Performance:** 36 months, likely commencing in September 2020.

**Eligibility:** The State Administrative Agency (SAA) will apply to FEMA for the FY 2020 NSGP funds on behalf of eligible nonprofit organizations. The SAA is, typically, the Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency. Nonprofit organizations must apply for FY 2019 NSGP through their SAA. Nonprofit organizations may not apply directly to the FEMA for FY 2019 NSGP funds.

SAAs are encouraged to notify and actively inform eligible nonprofit organizations of the availability of FY 2019 NSGP funding. Some SAAs do a better job of this than others. Interested nonprofits should proactively reach out to their SAA once the Notice of Funding Opportunity is posted (I will notify the field when it is posted). A list of SAA points of contact is available at: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/28689?id=6363>. The SAA POC list might be updated when the NOFO is posted.

**Eligible Nonprofit Organizations:** Organizations described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such code, and automatically exempt organizations such as churches, mosques, and synagogues. Eligible organizations will have to demonstrate, through the application, that the organization is at high risk of a terrorist attack.

**Key Dates/Deadlines:** The Notice of Funding Opportunity will set forth key dates and deadlines for the nonprofits, SAAs and FEMA. For now, the following is a generally expected timeline:

- By statute FEMA will have up to 60 days to post the NOFO.
- Once the NOFO is posted, the application period will commence. By statute, this period may run between 30 and 80 days. Part of this period will be designated for the nonprofits to submit their applications and the remainder will be designated for the State Administrative Agencies to review and submit the requests to FEMA.
- FEMA will then have up to 65 days to review and finalize application award decisions.
- All awards are required to be processed before the end of fiscal year 2020 (before October 1st).

**Note:**

- The SAAs will establish all requirements and deadlines to manage their nonprofit sub-application process in support of their submissions to FEMA and deadlines and **SAA requirements may vary from state to state.**
- Due to the competitive nature of the NSGP, **the SAAs and FEMA will not review applications that are not received by the deadline or consider late applications for funding.**
- Nonprofits experiencing technical issues in completing and submitting their applications to their SAAs, will need to **alert them to their difficulties right away and ahead of the submission deadline.**

### **Application Requisites:**

- Eligible nonprofits will submit an **Investment Justification (IJ)**. The SAA will provide a template.
- Only complete IJs will be considered for funding.
- Each nonprofit will include its **vulnerability/risk assessment** on which the request(s) in the IJ is based.
- Each nonprofit will include its **Mission Statement** and any mission implementing policies or practices that may elevate the organization's risk.
- There will be a funding limit. In FY 2019, the limit for both NSGP-UA and NSGP-S was **\$100 thousand**.

**Application Review:** NSGP applications will be reviewed through a two-phase state and Federal review process for completeness, adherence to programmatic guidelines, feasibility, and how well the IJ (project description and justification) addresses the identified risk(s).

Grant projects must be both feasible and effective at reducing the risks for which the project was designed; and able to be fully completed within the three-year period of performance.

As part of the review, the SAAs will prioritize (score) all NSGP IJs by ranking each IJ from highest to lowest, based on the SAA's subject matter expertise and discretion. In scoring, the SAA will consider Need (the relative need for the nonprofit organization compared to the other applicants) and Impact (the feasibility of the proposed project and how effectively the proposed project addresses the identified need) of each applicant.

**Note: We will break down the scoring process further in later guidance.**

The following is the FY 2019 NSGP evaluation criteria:

- For NSGP-UA: State and Federal verification that the nonprofit organization is located within one of the FY 2019 UASI-designated urban areas; and for NSGP-S, verification that the nonprofit is located outside of one of the FY 2019 UASI-designated urban areas for NSGP-S
- Identification and substantiation of current or persistent threats or attacks (from within or outside the United States) by a terrorist organization, network, or cell against the applicant based on their ideology, beliefs, or mission
- Symbolic value of the site(s) as a highly recognized regional and/or national or historical institution(s) that renders the site a possible target of terrorism
- Role of the applicant nonprofit organization in responding to or recovering from terrorist attacks
- Findings from previously conducted threat and/or vulnerability assessments
- Integration of nonprofit preparedness with broader state and local preparedness efforts

- Complete and feasible IJ that addresses an identified risk, including the assessed threat, vulnerability, and consequence of the risk, and proposes building or sustaining a core capability identified in The National Preparedness Goal
- History of prior funding under NSGP. Not having received prior year NSGP funding is a positive factor when calculating the state score of the application

**Note: Additional guidance on completing the IJ and satisfying the evaluation criteria will be provided shortly.**

**Notice of Award:** After the state and federal review process, FEMA will make funding recommendations to the Secretary of Homeland Security. All final funding determinations will be made by the Secretary of Homeland Security. Post-award steps:

- FEMA will make notification of award approval to the State Administrative Agencies
- The SAAs will make notification of award approval to the nonprofit organizations
- Nonprofit organizations approved for award will be required to enter a cooperative agreement with FEMA/SAAs, which will include submission of various financial and programmatic reports during the project phases as a condition of award acceptance. They will also need to comply with all Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) regulations (this is a standard certification)

**Note: We will provide post-award guidance after the Notice of Award has been made.**