



SECURE COMMUNITY NETWORK

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SCN – JFNA Nonprofit Security Grant Program Webinar

FAQ Responses

Available Funding

Is it \$100,000 per grant application or per organization?

A: The grant amount is per 501(c)(3) organization.

How does President Trump's recent signing of a bill to boost synagogues (\$375 million over 5 years) which allocates \$75 million/year to NSGP affect the current program? Is there more funding for this year's competition?

A: The recently enacted NSGP authorizing bill (HR 2476) was proposed by JFNA and supported by Congress and the President to strengthen the program. However, the authorizing levels set forth in the bill are requested minimum levels. Congress will set appropriations for NSGP every year through the annual appropriations process. Congress could appropriate more or less than the requested levels in the annual appropriations bills.

How are the total allocation amounts determined in each geographic area?

A: For NSGP-State, FEMA will set a minimum allocation for each state. Applicants will be selected from highest to lowest scored within their respective state until the available state target allocation has been exhausted. For NSGP-UA, all final application scores will be sorted in descending order, regardless of urban area, and applicants will be selected from highest to lowest until available FY 2019 NSGP-UA funding has been exhausted.

How will the overall increase in the State funding program affect last year's allocation totals for the State program?

A: FEMA will set a minimum allocation for each state. Generally, we expect the allocations to increase. The determinations will be published in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, soon to be released.

Was the entire funding increase this year for S only - there is no increase for UA facilities, right?

A: This is correct.

Funds Allocated

For 2019, you showed less than half the dollars requested were granted. How much of the requested dollars were urban area v. state?

A: About 34% of NSGP-UA grants were funded and about 38% of NSGP-S grants were funded. This year NSGP-S will receive a 4-fold increase in funding.

If we were granted funds through the NPSG program in the past, do we have a lower chance of receiving grant funds in future cycles?

A: Programs that have not previously received a grant will benefit from a 5-point bonus added to their final score. This may increase their chance of receiving funding over prior grantees.

How many sub-applicants have received the grant, on average, in the past couple of years? I.e. what are the odds of approval - what % of applicants are approved?

A: On average approximately 33% of applicants receive grants in any given year.

If you seek funding for very important issues and then have something like High Holiday Police coverage to complement our constant security force, will having that one item, or any item that is not viewed favorably, jeopardize your likely funding of the whole submission? Or, might one get funding for some items, not all items on your submission?

A: The program is risk based and the application process is highly competitive. Reviewers will score higher those applications that most clearly and accurately identify their risks, vulnerabilities and consequences of a terrorist attack, and seek investments that most clearly and accurately respond. Requested investments that undercut these expectations could have a negative impact on how a program is scored. Make sure that the investments requested clearly respond to an identified vulnerability or risk.

Utilizing the Funds

What is the time frame for submission of spending and reimbursement of monies?

A: The efficiency of the reimbursement process is dependent on how quickly the work is being done, the completeness and accuracy of the sub-grantee paperwork, and the timeliness of the SAA in reviewing and processing payment release. Ultimately, the timing will vary from SAA-to-SAA. Further inquiry should be made with the SAA to ascertain an anticipated reimbursement time estimate.

Can you please explain further the 5% of budget management could be granted for administrative work?

A: As the grant funding is limited, we do not promote the use of these funds to cover administrative expenses. However, they are eligible under the program, as follows:

Nonprofit organizations that receive a sub-award under this program may use and expend up to 5 percent of their FY 2019 NSGP funds for Management & Administration purposes associated with the sub-award. M&A activities are those defined as directly relating to the management and administration of NSGP funds, such as financial management and monitoring. M&A costs are not operational costs, they are the necessary costs incurred in direct support of the grant or as a consequence of the grant and should be allocated across the entire lifecycle of the grant. Examples include preparing and submitting required programmatic and financial reports, establishing and/or maintaining equipment inventory, documenting operational and equipment expenditures for financial accounting purposes; and responding to official informational requests from state and Federal oversight authorities.

When will the actual grant materials be available?

A: The Notice of Funding Opportunity will be made public on/or about February 14, 2020. JFNA will review the NOFO and update the field with SCN on any new or modified substantive guidelines. Shortly after the NOFO is released, the SAAs will post their instructions on their official websites. The timing of these postings can vary from SAA-to-SAA. Therefore, it is important to proactively contact your respective SAA to find out what their timing may be and to request that if they have a distribution list to add you to it. The SAAs materials and instructions are paramount.

Is there a funding match required?

A: There is no match requirement. Some projects do exceed the amount requested/funded through the NSGP program.

Can a Federation apply on behalf of the community and distribute grant funds to affiliated agencies and synagogues?

A: No, this would not be allowable. Each eligible 501(C)(3) must apply for its own sub-grant. However, if multiple agencies are tenants in a single structure or a defined contiguous campus, (such as a synagogue with an attached day school), the landlord or a lead-tenant could apply for a grant whose investments to the structure or contiguous campus could benefit multiple agencies.

Can we submit for expenses incurred in the past FY or just for what we will do forthcoming?

A: Reimbursement requested for expenses incurred prior to the grant award and period of performance would not be allowable.

Equipment & Allowable Expenses

I had a question about some of the equipment we will be applying for. It has a dual purpose of both providing fire safety as well as securing our temple against break ins and providing us an emergency notification system in the event of terrorism. Are the clear fire safety aspects of the equipment we would be applying for a concern? I don't see how to separate the equipment because it covers both risks of fire and attacks.

A: The NSGP program provides for the acquisition and installation of target hardening equipment and related emergency preparedness activities. The application (IJ) in its entirety must make this case, including how the investments build and sustain the identified core capabilities of the national preparedness goal: prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery of an act of terrorism (or violent homegrown extremism). It is not a program intended to respond to general crime or hazards unrelated to its purpose. How you develop your IJ plan of action begins with undertaking a vulnerability/risk assessment, which should make clear the risks and vulnerabilities identified and the appropriate investments to respond.

Is software to operate access control systems an allowable expense?

A: Software associated/accompanied with access control equipment and technology would generally be permissible.

What about impacted windows and doors? Electro-magnetic Locks?

A: Within the approved equipment list, there is a spectrum of eligible window, doors and lock investments available from the simple to the complex/sophisticated. It is important to review the specifications of the subcategories or eligible equipment and assess the best use of the project budget and the priorities identified in your risk/vulnerability assessment. Reviewers will be looking at the appropriateness of the requested investments to best respond to the identified risks and vulnerabilities.

Radios were not on the 2019 NSGP AEL, have they been added now?

A: A link to the most recent AEL list will be included in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. However, the AEL is basically static with few year-to-year changes. You would have to review the list when the NOFO comes out.

Can an existing security guard company be a cost we can apply for, or only ADDITIONAL security?

A: The contracted security personnel cost does not specify/require new or additional personnel. However, its intent is not to underwrite set budget items of an applicant, it is intended to respond to identified vulnerabilities. We recommend all applicants conduct good risk/vulnerability assessments and seek investments where vulnerabilities are identified. If the assessment calls for additional or modified security personnel investments, then that would be a justifiable request. To seek to merely underwrite existing costs may score poorly.

If period of performance can be as long as 36 months, can contract guard services be for this length of time?

A: Possibly, if an applicant can justify a 36-month timeline for security personnel. However, the contracting of security personnel is a new eligible cost and SAAs may vary in how they approach it. An applicant would need to receive guidance on this from their SAA.

Can grants be utilized for renovations/new construction?

A: NSGP funding may not be used for construction and renovation projects without prior written approval from DHS/FEMA (through the State Administrative Agency). The total cost of any construction or renovation paid for using NSGP funds may not exceed 15 percent (15%) of the NSGP award. In addition, the applicant would need to submit budget details and project costs and have completed as many steps as possible for a successful Environmental and Historic Preservation certification review in support of the proposal for funding.

Can items previously billed/paid be reimbursed or does everything have to be a "new plan" for the upcoming fiscal year?

A: Costs incurred in advance or contemplation of the grant are not eligible costs for reimbursement. The SAA will notify a sub-grantee when it is permissible to incur costs.

Where do we find the authorized equipment list?

A: The list may be found here: <https://www.fema.gov/authorized-equipment-list>. The permissible sections are 14 and 15 only.

UASI, SAA, Regions Included

What is UASI?

A: UASI stands for Urban Area Security Initiative. UASI is one of FEMA's emergency preparedness grant programs. UASI supports regional preparedness and capabilities in approximately 30 high-threat, high-density areas. The NSGP-UA is a sub-program of UASI.

If we are not located in one of the designated urban areas, does that mean we are not eligible this year?

A: No. If you are not located within a designated urban area, you would be eligible to apply for funds under NSGP-S. The application process is basically the same.

Why is Cleveland, Ohio not included in program?

A: Cleveland IS included in the program. If Cleveland, an urban area, is not designated eligible to participate in NSGP-UA in FY 2020, Cleveland area nonprofits would apply for funding through NSGP-S.

What is SAA & is the guidance different through the state?

A: The SAAs are State-designated homeland security/emergency management agencies. They are the applicants for the NSGP on behalf of the nonprofit sub-applicants. They administer the program to the SAAs from the application process to the close out of the grant projects. The SAAs receive guidance from FEMA. The guidance, while standard, does provide for some discretion and subjectivity to the SAAs. Under these circumstances, all applicants should carefully review the

instructions and requirements posted or provided by their respective SAA and to rely utmost on the state guidance or any additional details or requirements provided by their SAA.

How do I find my SAA? Are all nonprofits subrecipients under an SAA?

A: The SAA point of contact list may be found here: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/15737603598613463cec5a5722244deffd8702072d6f3/SAA_Contacts_Final_April_2019_508.pdf.

Yes, every sub-applicant will have a designated SAA from this list.

Is Rockville considered National Capital Region?

A: Yes.

How does one determine the boundaries of a UASI area? For example, what are the boundaries of the Newark/Jersey City Area?

A: The Newark/Jersey City Area is quite expansive. The SAAs will guide sub-applicants on the geographic boundaries of their applicable eligible urban areas. For the Newark/Jersey City Area, a NJ sub-applicant would need to contact the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP).

How do we know if we are in a designated "Urban Area?"

A: The Notice of Funding Opportunity will include the list of eligible urban areas. If an applicant wants to know if their address falls within the applicable jurisdiction they would need to contact their SAA.

Do states that don't have an UA program automatically now have a State program?

A: Every state will receive funds under the NSGP-S program. FEMA will determine the allocation for each state.

Is there a list of previous "Urban Areas" from previous years?

A: Yes. The PowerPoint presentation includes the FY 2019 list on the 9th slide.

How do we know how to best contact FEMA or the SAA with questions? Is it posted when the UAs are defined?

A: Sub-applicants should NOT contact FEMA. The SAA point of contact list includes phone numbers and email addresses for the SAAs. The SAA point of contact list may be found here: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1573760359861-3463cec5a5722244deffd8702072d6f3/SAA_Contacts_Final_April_2019_508.pdf.

Do we need to wait to contact the SAA unit the NOFO is released?

A: It is ok to contact the SAA now to let them know of your interest and to seek instructions on next steps/what to expect.

The SAAs don't alter this application, which goes from us to the SAA not FEMA, right?

A: The SAAs will review, score and prioritize the sub-applications they receive. They will submit the sub-applications to FEMA on behalf of the sub-applicants. FEMA will then review and finalize award decisions. During any phase of the review process, FEMA or the SAA may seek clarification or modification to a sub-award application at either the application phase or as a requirement of an award. In all cases, the SAA will be the point of contact for the sub-applicant.

Do you have any guidance on how to communicate with our SAAs?

A: In several communities, there are individuals (often Federation or CRC government affairs directors/professionals) who are leading/coordinating community organizations with the grant process, including facilitating engagement with the SAAs. If this is not the case in your community, it is perfectly appropriate to reach out to the SAA/SAA-designated point of contact to obtain their guidance and any additional details, as necessary.

Eligibility

Can we file under the URJ's 501(c)(3) designation?

A: Each applicant must be a 501(c)(3) organization and provide a 501(c)(3) Number (or EIN). Certain organizations such as churches, mosques, and synagogues are automatically exempt and may not be required to provide proof of exemption.

Are private non-profit institutions of higher education allowed to apply?

A: Yes. Any 501(c)(3) organization may apply.

We are working on obtaining 501c3 but may not have it completed in time for this grant cycle. As a synagogue, are we exempt from this requirement? New York State.

A: Synagogues are exempt and do not need to apply for an EIN number. For NY-based organizations, we recommend reaching out to David Pollock, Associate Executive Director, and Director of Public Policy & Security, JCRC of New York, on all matters pertaining to New York States NSGP application process at: pollockd@jrcny.org and to receive his guidance alerts at: <http://www.jrcny.org/security>.

Re: being a responder: Can you talk about your organization as a place which holds emotional processing space for Jews after an attack has occurred?

A: Yes. Organizations that provide counseling, respite care, funds, donated goods, or anything intended to assist an individual, family, community or otherwise in the aftermath of a terrorist event

(or even all-hazards), can articulate that role. Responsibility or mission in the grant application to answer the questions pertaining to the role as a responder.

Is a new synagogue under construction eligible to submit, or do they need to wait until the synagogue building is completed and operational?

A: If the NSGP project can be successfully and reasonably completed during the grant's period of performance, it would be permissible to apply for a building still under construction.

We are both a shul and a school that are housed in one building. Should both entities apply or just one?

A: If separate 501(c)(3)s, it is possible that both apply for separate grants. However, depending on how big the structure is and how well the SAA understands the relationship between the synagogue and school, applying for two grants may raise concerns about the appropriateness of seeking two grants. Check with the SAA.

Does this apply to organizations who present Jewish events at community venues (but do not have our own venue)? We still need to harden our targets. Thanks.

A: Any 501(c)(3) may apply. Those most likely to get funded will make the case that they are at risk of a potential terrorist attack due to their ideology, beliefs, or mission. That is the case that must be met.

Pre-Application Preparation and Registration

Was wondering what is involved in registering at SAM. How much time should we allocate to setting up at SAM (assuming we have a DUNS number).

A: Every applicant must provide a DUNS number. SAM registration is not a FEMA/federal requirement under the grant. SAM registration will only be a requirement for sub-applicants who reside in a state where the state requires a SAM registration to receive government grants. If a state requires this additional registration, the SAA will instruct the sub-applicant. In the past, a state would require the SAM registration for only awarded applicants. The registration process is straightforward but takes approximately 4-6 weeks to complete.

We had a security assessment done in 2018 and nothing has changed on our end. Can we use the same one?

A: Yes. While FEMA does not set any standards on this, industry practice would suggest that a vulnerability/risk assessment is valid up to 3 years.

Application & Deadlines

What is in the "sub-application" due 30 days after NOFO v. the full application content?

A: The nonprofits are required to complete a 7-part Investment Justification and submit it to the State Administrative Agency along with a mission statement and risk/vulnerability assessment. They will

have approximately 30 days to make this submission from the start of the grant phase. However, it is up to the individual SAAs to determine the deadline for their jurisdictions. The SAAs will review the submissions for eligibility and will score and prioritize all eligible applications and submit to FEMA for federal review and final award determinations.

Does the risk assessment need to be completed by a specific specialist or agency?

A: No. For those communities with a Federation-based Community Security Director or SCN Regional Security Advisor, organizations could contact and/or coordinate with them to determine if they are able to support risk assessments during the grant application period. Local law enforcement agencies or state homeland security offices may be able to assist in conducting an assessment. On a very limited basis, Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Advisors (PSAs) located throughout the country, may be able to assist with vulnerability/risk assessments. SCN may also be able to provide the vulnerability/risk assessment or consult on a SCN-developed self-assessment tool for those organizations unable to coordinate or schedule an outside assessment. Local law enforcement or state homeland security agencies may also recommend additional self-assessment resources to conduct the assessment.

Should the assessment be completed by an external agency or would an in-house assessment be acceptable if it meets all the criteria?

A: Either is permissible. For those communities with a Federation-based Community Security Director or SCN Regional Security Advisor, organizations could contact and/or coordinate with them to determine if they are able to support risk assessments during the grant application period. Local law enforcement agencies or state homeland security offices may be able to assist in conducting an assessment. On a very limited basis, Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Advisors (PSAs) located throughout the country, may be able to assist with vulnerability/risk assessments. SCN may also be able to provide the vulnerability/risk assessment or consult on a SCN-developed self-assessment tool for those organizations unable to coordinate or schedule an outside assessment. Local law enforcement or state homeland security agencies may also recommend additional self-assessment resources to conduct the assessment.

What is in the sub-application due within 30 days of the grant information being released?

A: The nonprofits are required to complete a 7-part Investment Justification and submit it to the State Administrative Agency along with a mission statement and risk/vulnerability assessment. They will have approximately 30 days to make this submission from the start of the grant phase. However, it is up to the individual SAAs to determine the deadline for their jurisdictions. The SAAs will review the submissions for eligibility and will score and prioritize all eligible applications and submit them to FEMA for federal review and final award determinations.

Can you please clarify what is due February 28th and what is being released Feb 14th to be due mid-March?

A: The NSGP program Notice of Funding Opportunity will be announced on/about February 14, 2020. The NOFO provides guidance to the State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) on carrying out the

grant program. It will include a number of key-dates, including the deadline the SAA must submit the sub-applications for its jurisdiction. Within that timeframe (about 30 days – as determined by each SAA for its jurisdiction) the nonprofit will submit to the SAA their sub-grant applications. The SAA will review, score and prioritize the sub-applications and submit them to FEMA by the deadline set forth in the guidelines. Once the NOFO is posted, we will make sure to let applicants know what all the key dates are related to the program.

We received a grant for “equipment” in FY 2019. Can we use the same Vulnerability Assessment for a “planning” and “training” application for FY 2020?

A: Yes.

Is the scoring rubric available?

A: The scoring worksheet the SAAs will use will be included in or with the Notice of Funding Opportunity, which we can post as a review tool. The decisions about how FEMA allocated program funding to the Urban Areas or the States, or the prioritization or award decisions made by the SAA or FEMA, will not be made public.

Are the decisions rolling? is there any advantage to submitting earlier than later?

A: No advantage per se. The SAAs establish all requirements and deadlines to manage their nonprofit sub-application process in support of their submissions to DHS/FEMA. SAA deadlines and requirements may vary from state to state. All sub-applicants will need to know what the framework is for their respective SAA and make sure their sub-application is received before the deadline. Late sub-applications will not be eligible as the grant is competitive. The only possible exception for “good cause” to justify extending the deadline may include technical problems outside of the applicant’s control that prevent submission of the application by the deadline, or other exigent or emergency circumstances. These would be assessed on a case-by-case basis under a stringent review. We do recommend that nonprofit sub-applicants leave a cushion of a few days to ensure they do not miss the deadline.

State Funded Programs

How are State-funded programs (e.g., CA) integrated into the application process?

A: Most state programs work independently of the Federal program. Minnesota’s program, however, relies on the federal initiative. It relies on the NSGP program’s application (and scoring and prioritization by the SAA) and prioritizes applications that did not receive the federal award.

If we have just applied for a Commonwealth of MA nonprofit security grant will we still be eligible to apply for a Federal grant?

A: Yes. The federal program is independent of any state program.

Other

Whose deadline is the 30-day deadline?

A: The NSGP program Notice of Funding Opportunity will be announced on/or about February 14, 2020. The NOFO provides guidance to the State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) on carrying out the grant program. It will include several key-dates, including the deadline the SAA must submit the sub-applications for its jurisdiction. Within that timeframe (about 30 days – as determined by each SAA for its jurisdiction) the nonprofit will submit to the SAA their sub-grant applications. The SAA will review, score and prioritize the sub-applications and submit them to FEMA by the deadline set forth in the guidelines. Once the NOFO is posted, we will make sure to let applicants know what all the key dates are related to the program.

For organizations in states where Marijuana is now legal, are there certain policies we should have in place in order to be compliant with the grant requirements and receive federal funds?

A: All 501(c)(3) organizations that meet the program criteria may apply. The criterion does not pertain to a state’s “Marijuana” laws.

Do they alter the information requested in an application (i.e., make their own apps) or does everyone use the FEMA app without additional questions or different questions?

A: The nonprofit sub-applicants must follow the instructions provided by their respective SAAs. Unless instructed otherwise, sub-applicants should not be using FEMA’s guidance as their sole means of guidance.

Will we be able to get the contact info for the speakers at this webinar?

A: Yes. A contact slide is included near the end of the PowerPoint presentation.

Can you provide a list of the online security assessment that you just mentioned?

A: SCN can provide details about its developed vulnerability/risk self-assessment. For more information, please contact DutyDesk@securecommunitynetwork.org.

Will a recording/slides/FAQ be provided?

A: Yes. The webinar was recorded and will be made available to all participants along with an FAQ document and related materials.

The webinar recording can be found [here](#).

Do you have contact information for contractors to address cyber threats?

A: Under Section 14/Physical Security (14CI-00-COOP - System, Information Technology Contingency Operations), cyber threats may be addressed through back-up computer hardware, operating systems, data storage, and application software necessary to provide a working environment for contingency operations. Additionally, this may include purchased remote service or a dedicated alternate operating site. We do not typically recommend any “contractors” to carry the projects work/consult.

We are a small congregation that is clearly "at risk." Don't you think that for a group that has very limited personnel and limited full-time individuals, this application is VERY difficult.

A: The application has seven parts. We provide extensive guidance to assist with each aspect of the project. We are available to answer questions throughout the process. Applicants of all shapes and sizes have successfully secured funding through this opportunity.

Will the applied examples be sent around as well? It is very helpful to hear the illustrations. Thank you for doing this!

A: Our guidelines with illustrations will be made available.

ADL

Can the ADL's annual report on Anti-Semitism come out earlier so the data can be used for the grant applications?

A: In addition to the ADL resources referenced on the webinar, ADL has additional resources, reports, statistics and related materials which can be accessed at www.adl.org. Additionally, JFNA has developed extensive risk data as part of its guidance, which will be made available.

What if your state is not on the heat map? How do you support without data?

A: JFNA has developed extensive risk data as part of its guidance, which will be made available.

Contacts/Resources

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Disclaimer: The information contained within has been compiled and produced solely for the purposes of informing Jewish nonprofit organizations as it relates to the Nonprofit Security Grant (NSGP) and State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP).

The information reflects the best efforts by SCN, JFNA and its partners to provide answers to common questions regarding the grant programs. Applicants are encouraged to check with their State Administrative Agencies (SAA's) for specific information and consult a grant professional for further guidance.

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