



3/12/2026

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
Senate Committee on  
Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on  
Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
House Appropriations  
Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

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Immediate Past Chair

**Honorable Eric D. Fingerhut**  
President & CEO

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of Jewish Federations of North America, representing 141 Jewish Federations and hundreds of independent Jewish communities across all 50 states, we respectfully submit this letter in support of increased funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 for key federal law enforcement and homeland security programs that are essential to protecting Jewish institutions and combating rising threats of antisemitism and domestic terrorism.

Jewish Federations collectively serve as the backbone of the organized Jewish community, supporting synagogues, schools, community centers, social service agencies, and vulnerable populations nationwide. At a time of historically high antisemitic incidents and persistent threats targeting religious and ethnic communities, federal investments in law enforcement capacity, intelligence, preparedness, and prevention are urgently needed.

These concerns are further heightened by the current geopolitical environment. Recent military activity involving Iran has intensified concerns across the homeland security and law enforcement communities. Iran's long-

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standing support for terrorist proxy groups contributes to an environment in which global events can rapidly translate into domestic security threats.

Historically, periods of international conflict involving Iran and its proxy networks have coincided with spikes in antisemitic threats and violence targeting Jewish institutions in the United States. During periods of heightened geopolitical instability, the risk of domestic extremist activity and targeted violence increases.

Given the threat environment, robust federal support for law enforcement coordination, intelligence analysis, and community protection programs are essential to preventing and detecting violence before it occurs. The programs outlined below play a critical role in safeguarding Jewish Americans and strengthening the security of all communities.

## Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies

### Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (Byrne JAG)

Jewish Federations of North America strongly support robust programmatic funding for the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Byrne JAG program. The Byrne JAG program was funded at \$964 million for FY 2026, up from \$499 million in FY 2025, however \$537.9 million of that funding was Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending, leaving the programmatic funding at \$426.1 million. The Byrne JAG program provides the vital flexibility local law enforcement needs to address the unique security challenges facing the Jewish community. Unlike other narrow federal grants, Byrne JAG allows for the procurement of critical technology—such as integrated license plate readers and enhanced surveillance around synagogues and day schools—and funds the multi-jurisdictional task forces that track hate groups across city and county lines. This program bridges the gap between prevention and response, ensuring that local police have the equipment, data-sharing capabilities, and specialized personnel to protect Jewish institutions.

Furthermore, given the increasing intersection between online radicalization and real-world prejudice-based offenses, we encourage the Committee to reaffirm that Byrne JAG funds may be used to strengthen state and local law enforcement capacity to investigate technology-enabled threats, including



analytic tools, cyber investigative training, and multi-jurisdictional coordination targeting online extremist networks.

In an era of evolving threats, the adaptable nature of Byrne JAG is essential for maintaining the safety and resilience of Jewish neighborhoods and houses of worship. **For FY 2027, we request that the Byrne JAG program be funded at \$100 million with programmatic funding.**

### Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

Jewish Federations of North America are pleased that the DOJ's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) was funded at \$654.1 million in FY 2026. The COPS Office advances community policing nationwide by providing grants, training, and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal law enforcement. Community-based policing strategies are vital for building trust between law enforcement and faith-based communities by improving threat reporting and preventing acts of violence before they occur. **For FY 2027, we encourage the COPS Office to prioritize guidance to local law enforcement that focuses on training to reduce antisemitism, antisemitic-fueled violent crimes, extremist violence, and threats to religious institutions.** This additional guidance would significantly enhance the effectiveness of the programs administered by the COPS Office.

### COPS Hiring Grant (CHP)

We urge the Committees to increase funding for FY 2027 to at least \$270 million for the COPS Hiring Grant Program. The CHP is a competitive grant designed to reduce crime by providing direct funding for the hiring or rehiring of full-time sworn officers. Following the \$256 million enacted in FY 2026, we urge a continued investment to help agencies bridge the gap between community needs and current staffing levels. The COPS Hiring Program is a vital component of protecting the Jewish community during a period of unprecedented domestic antisemitism.

According to recent federal data, Jewish people and institutions remain the most targeted religious group for religious-based violence and crimes in the United States. The presence of sworn officers funded through the CHP provides more than just a deterrent; it facilitates the specialized patrol presence and deep-rooted community relationships necessary to secure synagogues, day schools, and community centers. When local departments



are understaffed, proactive protection for vulnerable religious minorities is often the first service to be strained. Sustained investment in CHP ensures that law enforcement has the personnel capacity to partner with Jewish community leaders, provide visible security during high-risk periods, and ensure that every citizen can exercise their right to worship without fear.

### **Community Policing Development (CPD) Microgrants Program**

Jewish Federations of North America are pleased that the Community Policing Development (CPD) Microgrant Program was funded at \$18 million for FY 2026. **For FY 2027, we are requesting that the CPD Microgrant Program be funded at \$25 million.** CPD Microgrants are essential for fostering the specialized expertise required to address the unique threats facing the Jewish community today. They also provide the necessary 'seed' funding for local departments to develop and implement Hate Crime Prevention and Response pilot programs. Specifically, these funds can be utilized for cultural competency training and the establishment of dedicated interfaith liaison units that build direct lines of communication between law enforcement and Jewish communal leadership. By funding these innovative strategies, CPD Microgrants empower local agencies to go beyond reactive policing—enabling them to proactively identify antisemitic trends, improve the reporting of religious-motivated crimes, and create tailored security protocols that ensure Jewish residents feel safe in their neighborhoods.

### **Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)**

We support sustained and increased funding for PSN to strengthen federal, state, and local coordination in addressing violent crime, religious-motivated crimes, and targeted violence. As antisemitic incidents and targeted threats increasingly emerge from online radicalization and extremist networks, PSN's coordinated enforcement framework remains essential.

### **Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program**

Jewish Federations of North America urge continued strong funding for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program in FY 2027 to enhance state and local law enforcement capacity to investigate technology-enabled crimes. ICAC task forces provide digital forensic tools, specialized training, and multi-jurisdictional coordination that help agencies respond effectively to online threats that can escalate into real-world violence.



## Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Jewish Federations of North America strongly support increased funding for the FBI Salaries and Expenses (S&E) account dedicated to expanding its capacity to investigate domestic terrorism, and foreign-inspired extremist activity, and bias-motivated crimes for FY 2027. The FBI plays a central role in identifying and disrupting threats targeting Jewish institutions and leaders, as well as in supporting state and local law enforcement through intelligence sharing and joint task forces.

With antisemitic-fueled violence reaching record highs in 2024 and 2025, the FBI's ability to maintain a specialized workforce of special agents and intelligence analysts dedicated to investigating domestic terrorism, foreign-inspired extremist activity, and bias-motivated crimes is more critical than ever. For the Jewish community—which remains the most frequent target of religiously motivated crimes—a fully funded FBI S&E program with sufficient funds dedicated to investigating domestic terrorism, foreign-inspired extremist activity, and bias-motivated crimes ensures that federal law enforcement has the 'boots on the ground' and technical expertise required to aggressively prosecute those who commit acts of antisemitic violence and intimidation.

When Congress enacted FY 2026 appropriations, the FBI was funded at approximately \$10.624 billion, reflecting a reduction from prior years but underscoring the baseline level required to sustain core missions of national security and violent crime prevention. Within the Salaries and Expenses account, we encourage the Committees to ensure adequate support for expanded analytic and cyber investigative capacity to identify and assess online-facilitated threats, including extremist networks and foreign actors that amplify antisemitic rhetoric and target religious institutions.

As threats evolve, the Bureau's ability to deploy cutting-edge intelligence, cyber capabilities, and rapid investigative resources is vital to protecting Jewish communities and all Americans. Accordingly, **we urge the Committees to fully fund the FBI in FY 2027**, ensuring the Bureau has sufficient, dedicated funds to investigate domestic terrorism, foreign-inspired extremist activity, and bias-motivated crimes to meet both current and emerging threats facing the Jewish community.



# Homeland Security

## Department of Homeland Security Preparedness Activities (UASI and SHSP)

Under FY 2025 and continuing into FY 2026, the Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Grant Program, including the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), provided \$553.5 million for UASI and \$373.5 million for SHSP. These grants enable state and local jurisdictions to develop and sustain capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorism and other high-risk threats.

UASI and SHSP funds support critical preparedness planning, regional information sharing, interoperable communications, exercises, training, and equipment acquisition that strengthen the homeland security posture of communities of all sizes. They also empower local partners to tailor investments to address specific risks—including the safety of houses of worship, educational institutions, and community centers that are frequent targets of antisemitic threats and violence. By increasing funding for these preparedness activities in FY 2027, Congress will ensure that communities—especially urban areas with significant Jewish populations—remain resilient against evolving terrorism threats and can coordinate effectively with federal partners on prevention and response. **For FY 2027, Jewish Federations of North America request that the Committees fully fund UASI and SHSP.**

We also encourage the Committees to include the following report language focused on Fusion Centers.

### Fusion Center Report Language

*“At-Risk Institutions of Faith and Related Organizations.— The Committee recognizes that enhanced collaboration among Federal Government, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial partners, and private-sector partners represents the standard for homeland security information sharing. The Committee remains concerned about persistent and evolving threats targeting at-risk institutions of faith and related faith-based organizations, and notes that such entities are critical constituencies that fusion centers are intended to serve.*



*Therefore, the Committee directs the Office of Intelligence and Analysis to work with fusion centers to ensure that at-risk institutions of faith and related faith-based organizations are appropriately incorporated into existing private-sector partnership and information-sharing frameworks, as applicable, so that relevant threat information and intelligence are shared to the extent possible.*

*Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis shall brief the Committees on Homeland Security and Appropriations on actions taken to implement this directive and any barriers to expanded engagement.”*

Taken together, these programs form a comprehensive framework for preventing violence, responding to threats, and protecting vulnerable communities. Increased funding in FY 2027 will allow federal, state, and local partners to keep pace with rising domestic terrorism, foreign-inspired extremist activity, and bias-motivated crimes while strengthening the safety of all Americans. In the current geopolitical environment, tensions involving Iran and its affiliated proxy networks may further elevate risks to Jewish institutions and other vulnerable communities in the United States.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued commitment to public safety and homeland security. We appreciate your consideration of our request and stand ready to work with you to ensure Jewish communities—and all communities—can live free from fear.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Eric D. Fingerhut  
President & CEO  
Jewish Federations of North America

