



Operating Budget - \$5 Million for the Security of Schools, Child Care Centers and Places of Worship at Risk of Hate Crimes

What is this School Safety Grant Program?

The School Safety Program is a grant in the Governor's proposed FY20 budget. It was established because of successful legislation requested by Maryland's Jewish Community in FY18. The Governor allocated \$2 million for this initiative in his proposed FY20 budget through the Maryland Center for School Safety. These grants will be used for infrastructure upgrades and security personnel for schools and childcare centers deemed at-risk for hate crimes or attacks, as determined by the Maryland Center for School Safety. This winter, 28 institutions were awarded a total of \$1 million in grants through the first year of this program.

What is the Safety for Places of Worship Grant?

The Governor has allocated \$3 million in his proposed FY20 budget through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention toward the safety of places of worship. This new funding will help synagogues across the state update security infrastructure and hire security personnel to keep their congregants and staff safe from hate bias incidents.

Why is Security Funding for Jewish Schools and Synagogues Good for Maryland?

These grants aim to directly address the recent climate of fear and intimidation caused by rising hate/bias incidents in Maryland. Through the grants, schools and other religious institutions can create a safer environment for community members, both mitigating future threats and diminishing the climate of fear which has manifested among some of Maryland's targeted communities.

How Does Security Funding Impact Maryland's Jewish Community?

In 2017, Maryland's Jewish community faced a frightening string of bomb threats against its day schools and community centers, including several local preschools housed within Jewish Community Centers. These incidents were only one part of a larger trend. For the past two years, the Jewish community has been the 2nd most common target of hate/bias incidents reported to the Maryland State Police, with anti-Semitic incidents accounting for 19.6% of reported crimes. This funding will help schools and places of worship stay safe.

What Can Be Done?

Tell your legislator that you support the \$5 million allocation for the safety of schools and places of worship in the Governor's proposed FY20 budget.