How can we prepare to request funding for personnel and/or software and have an appropriate threat assessment before the NOFO becomes available?

Please schedule a threat assessment now!

FEMA does not prescribe which vulnerability assessment tool an applicant may utilize as a basis for the grant. A professional assessment conducted by experienced assessors is advisable. SCN-supported community/regional security directors/advisors and/or Federation-based security directors may be available to assist at no charge. State or local law enforcement partners may also provide vulnerability assessments free of charge.

If these options are not available, there may be private vendors who will conduct assessments at a cost (not reimbursable through the grant). Private sector vendors may vary in cost, quality, and competency, so it would be advisable to vet/conduct due diligence on all prospective candidates and confer with SCN’s Duty Desk if there are questions or concerns, at: dutydesk@securecommunitynetwork.org.

For organizations that are unable to arrange for an outside vulnerability assessment, the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and SCN have developed baseline security self-assessments that are designed for organizations/persons, with little to no security experience, to complete a security assessment.

- CISA Assessment Tool: https://www.cisa.gov/houses-of-worship
- SCN Assessment Tool: https://securecommunitynetwork.org/resources/dhs-grant-funds-information/nsgp-tvra-tool

Note: Before using any self-assessment tool for the NSGP grant, check with your SAA to make sure they will accept the self-assessment tool you plan to use – they may have a preferred or recommend tool.

Any idea what the success rate is for these grants?

There is no statistical data on the success rates. However, in FY2022, total funding allocation was $250 million, for which there was $447 million in application requests.
**Please explain the category of training & exercises?**
Funding requests may be made for security or emergency planning expenses and the materials required to conduct planning activities. Vendor provided instruction – such as active shooter training, stop-the-bleed training – are considered “training”. Testing a plan, with a physical response is considered an “exercise.” For example, testing an emergency evacuation procedure or a lockdown protocol to evaluate its capabilities is considered an exercise.

*“We cannot wait, have to invest now, can we get reimbursed for expenses happening before the funds are awarded?”*
No. The NSGP grant is for new projects that have not yet commenced.

**Will we have to show we have the funds to start these projects prior to receiving the awards?**
FEMA does not require any proof of financial capability to fund these projects prior to receiving the awards.

**Do you have a list of reliable security vendors based on regions of a state?**
SCN does not recommend security vendors. We do recommend reaching out to other nonprofit organizations in your area for potential vendor referrals.

**Does the project need to be completed before we know we were awarded the grant?**
The NSGP grant is only for new projects that have not yet started. Nonprofit organizations may not begin any work until they have been awarded the grant and have been given permission by their State Administrative Agency to begin their projects.

**If you received funding for the most recent grant, should you apply for this grant?**
All eligible nonprofit organizations may apply every year for the NSGP grant. However, the requested investments cannot be duplicative of prior year’s investments.

**Is there an “expiration date” on threat assessments?**
All investments requested and funded through the NSGP funding opportunity must be supported by a current vulnerability assessment. Generally, a current vulnerability assessment would be considered no older than 36 months. Within that period, vulnerabilities may have changed, which could impact what investments might be recommended. If seeking investments that are not justified within the current vulnerability assessment, be sure to update or supplement it to ensure it addresses all investments planned for the upcoming funding opportunity.

*“We are a synagogue. We received the NSGP in 2018. In September, we renovated four of our classrooms and opened an Early Learning Center. Are we considered a new applicant?*  
Nonprofit organizations that have been recipients of an NSGP grant are **not** considered new applicants and are not eligible for “bonus” points.
When we submit our NSGP application, do we include the full site assessment or just the parts of the assessment that are relevant to the Investment Justification?
The entire security assessment must be submitted, along with the applicant’s Investment Justification and any other documentation required by the State Administrative Agency for the organization’s domicile state.

With cameras, is it necessary to have active monitoring of the camera feed?
CCTV systems are included in the allowable equipment category under the NSGP. While active monitoring is not a requirement, it is recommended.

Does the Mission Statement have to be on organization letterhead?
While there is no FEMA requirement, it is preferable that the Mission Statement be prepared on organization letterhead.

Is the Investment Justification an online form?
In FY2022, FEMA’s Investment Justification was available to be completed online. Check with your State Administrative Agency for their guidelines on submitting this year’s Investment Justification and other required documents to apply for the NSGP.

“We want to replace our glass entry way with a new entrance that would have a vestibule. Is this an allowable expense?
The NSGP grant excludes construction projects. Please check with your State Administrative Agency for further guidance.

If we receive an NSGP award in 2023, when is the earliest my organization can start our projects?
The NSGP awards are generally announced in late summer/early fall. However, there are several administrative steps that must be taken by the organization and approved by the SAA/FEMA before any projects can commence. Therefore, it could take several months before projects can commence – with FY23 NSGP award project commencement beginning, generally, around early 2024.

We don’t have independent 501c3 status, do we need to do that before we apply?
Nonprofit places of worship do not need independent 501c3 status in order to apply. All other nonprofit organizations will be independent 501c3 status.

What is a DBA?
DBA stands for “doing business as”.

Can you explain “date of construction”?
For purposes of the Investment Justification, an organization should include the date of construction of the main building for which the investments are being requested.
**How long does it take to get a UEI?**
It can take anywhere from a few days to several months to get a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number. UEI numbers are required in 2023 in order to be eligible to apply for the 2023 NSGP grant.

**Will a Public Address system be included in this year’s allowable equipment?**
We don’t have specific guidance on the 2023 Allowable Equipment List as of this date. However, PA systems were included in 2022 and we do anticipate that they will continue to be permitted.

**What’s the website to get the UEI number?**
Please go to [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov) in order to register for a UEI number. For more information on getting your UEI number, please click [here](http://www.sam.gov).

**How can an organization reach out to their SAA?**
For a list of State Administrative Agencies, please click [here](http://www.sam.gov).

**How can we determine if our organization’s address is in a UASI area?**
For a list of FY2022 UASI areas, please click [here](http://www.sam.gov).

**If we lease our premises, does the landlord of the building also have to be a 501c3 organization?**
Only the applicant has to be a nonprofit 501c3 organization.

**Do we need digital or paper quotes as attachments to the IJ Part V?**
There is no requirement to submit quotes as part of the Investment Justification.

**What should be included in our mission statement?**
The Mission Statement should include a description of the “who, what, and why” of your organization. If your organization is a religious based organization, please make sure to include that in your mission statement.

**We are Seventh Day Adventists. All of our churches fall under one 501c3 per region. How can we apply?**
We would recommend reaching out to your State Administrative Agency for guidance on how each church should apply for this grant.