



**NAVIGATING THE NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (NSGP) WEBINAR SERIES
FY 2023/2024 FEMA GUIDANCE
“THREATS & RISKS UNDER THE NSGP”
08 FEBRUARY 2024
FAQS**

Do we need a written Threat, Vulnerability & Risk Assessment (TVRA) that is signed or certified by an external entity or can the organization perform their own assessment?

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.

Can an assessment be done by a business that provides the services?

Many State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) prohibit vendors who perform the security assessments from participating as a vendor to provide the security upgrades. Please check with your SAA.

We are a tenant in the building whose owner is apply for federal NSGP funding. Are we eligible to apply?

Tenants are eligible to apply for NSGP funding. Tenants need their landlord's approval to make the requested security upgrades. Please make sure not to duplicate requests with those of the owner.

My state also has a grant program. Can we apply for the same facility upgrades on both grants or do we have to make sure we apply for different upgrades in case we receive both grants?

It is recommended that you apply for different upgrades to avoid supplanting and duplication.

How do I know how to contact my State Administrative Agency?

Click [here to download a copy of the State Administrative Agencies nationwide](#).

If you have two facilities, can you apply for each one?

Yes. Each address needs its own Threat, Vulnerability & Risk Assessment (TVRA).

Our TVRA doesn't include contracted security. If we want to apply for security personnel, does it have to appear in the TVRA?

Yes. The vulnerability of lack of security personnel must appear in the TVRA in order to be considered for the NSGP award. Your organization is eligible for apply for security guards that are not already under contract with your organization.

If we cannot provide any evidence of terrorism to our building, how can we best describe the threat to our facility?

You can use similar type of organizations that have had terrorist attacks and draw the parallel back to your organization. You can also discuss recent attacks in your local/regional area and relate it back to your organization.

What is the link to the ADL "HEAT Map"?

<https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-to-track-hate/heat-map>

We were awarded a grant last year, but only found out that early January is was awarded, so nothing has been implemented yet. The assessment therefore is still accurate?

Yes. An assessment is valid for up to 36 months.

We operate a program on 140-acres of land with over 70 studios. How do we find out if we are one site or if we have multiple sites within our campus?

The NSGP applies to each address. One address. One application.

I work for 2 camps that fall under one organization. In 2023, one camp was funded, the other wasn't. It was suggested to me that we don't apply for both camps in the same year to maximize our chances. What are your thoughts on this?

It depends on the pool of applicants for each year.

It seems like it would be useful to talk about the full threat environment in our area, not just the ones specifically marked as terrorist threats/incidents, would you say that is correct?

Yes, assault, threats and antisemitic incidents should also be discussed in your NSGP application.

Are Jewish businesses like kosher supermarkets, which are huge targets (Paris, New Jersey), eligible for grants?

Only nonprofit 501c3 organizations, and houses of worship, are eligible for the NSGP grant.

In the past, there haven't been character or word limits that were noted, however it would cut off regularly at random points. Can there please be character limits listed so that we can work on it accurately in our word documents?

In past year, the larger sections generally had a limit of approximately 2200 characters. Use that as your guide.

Do we submit a copy of the quotes that we receive from vendors for the cost?

At time of application, you will not need to submit any vendor quotes.

Are applications approved partially - funding only part of the requests?

It depends. If the application includes items that are not eligible, FEMA might strike them and issue an award only for the eligible items.

Where can I find the CDC's SVI Index Tool?

The link to the CDC's SVI Index Tool can be found [here](#).

Does the security assessment have to be included in the NSGP grant submission package?

Yes. The security assessment is one of the required documents for your grant submission.

If you've received grants before, are you excluded / limited this year?

Eligible nonprofits may apply each year if they provide a strong application, valid assessment and provide a compelling reason for their security investments.

How can we view the FY2023 NSGP Investment Justification Form?

The link for the FY2023 NSGP Investment Justification Form can be found [here](#). Once you click the link, the file can be downloaded and saved to your computer.

Is hiring police the same as hiring a security guard?

The process for hiring security guard, whether they are private or off-duty law enforcement, must be follow the same procurement protocols as the remaining vendors. Please follow your SAA's procurement protocols to be eligible for reimbursement.

Can we apply for a generator?

Yes, if it supports the requested target hardening equipment that is being requested. The AEL code will be 10GE-00-GENR.

Where can I get a copy of the SCN's self-assessment tool?

For a copy of the SCN self-assessment tool, please send an email to nsgpsupport@securecommunitynetwork.org.

Will Unique Entity Identifiers (UEI) be required this year?

Yes. Please start the process now by going to SAM.gov and following the directions for obtaining a UEI.

When will the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) be announced?

The NOFO announcement is released after receiving Congressional and Presidential approval, which happens in the late winter/early spring. The individual states' SAAs determine their own state's deadline - which will be different than the federal deadline. At this time, we expect the NOFO to be released around April/May 2024.

If you already have security guards, can you still apply for them to cover part of your security guard expense?

No. The NSGP does not cover pre-award expenses. An organization is not allowed to supplant current security guard expenses with their NSGP award. It must be for new or additional security services.

Do we have to provide more than one quote per project?

At time of application, an organization will need a comprehensive quote from a vendor so that they can build a realistic budget for their NSGP application.

Do we need to submit bids along with the budget?

Not at time of application.

The federal program is administered via an application process that goes through the state, via your SAA. If passing the federal budget continues to be delayed into February or later, how might that affect this grant opportunity?

The federal deadline will depend on when the budget allocation is approved by Congress and the President. FEMA and the states take all this into consideration before determining deadlines. However, be prepared for very short deadlines for nonprofit organizations to submit the grant applications to their SAAs.

Is the grant available across North American or just in the US?

The NSGP grant is only for nonprofit organizations in the United States.

Do we need a new UEI for 2024, is one received in 2023 OK?

Your UEI number remains the same from year to year. The SAM.gov registration needs to be renewed annually.

Can multiple addresses be included in one vulnerability assessment?

Each address must have its own vulnerability assessment.

If we received an NSGP grant in 2023, can we apply in 2024?

Every eligible organization may apply each year for the NSGP grant award. Start early, work directly from the vulnerability assessment, make a solid case why your facility is at risk, and your chances for a successful grant increase.

Can a synagogue apply, even if they have not filed for 501c3 status?

Yes. Houses of worship are eligible and do not need to file for 501c3 status.

Do equipment requests need to have multiple bids to validate cost?

For the purposes of writing the Investment Justification, you should obtain a comprehensive quote so that you can build a reasonable budget upon which you will be able to implement your award funds. At the time of application, you are not required to get multiple bids.

Are contracted security personnel an allowable expense?

Contracted Security Personnel are allowed under this program only as described in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. Per FY2023 guidance:

- NSGP funds may not be used to purchase equipment for contracted security.

- The subrecipient must be able to sustain this capability in future years without NSGP funding.
- The request cannot exceed 50% of the total requested award amount (without a waiver) and should support a target-hardening equipment request.
- Cannot supplant current budgeted security personnel.

Is there a particular form that is required for the security assessment?

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 recommended tool. Self-assessment tools should be reviewed by a security professional prior to submission.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this newsletter has been compiled and produced solely for the purposes of informing faith-based & nonprofit organizations as it relates to the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). The information reflects the best efforts by SCN to provide answers to common questions regarding the grant programs. Applicants are encouraged to check with their State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) for specific information and consult a grant professional for further guidance. This information is being provided for educational and informational purposes only, without representation, guarantee, or warranty of any kind. SCN is not responsible for any injury, loss, or damages to persons or property arising from the use or misuse of this information.