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.

Why do some states accept large boulders as barriers while others (like NY) do not?
The State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) are given the authority by FEMA to set their own guidelines within the allowable Authorized Equipment List items.

If an organization received funding in 2021, would they be eligible for additional funds in 2023?
All eligible nonprofit organizations may apply each year for NSGP grant funds. However, the investments requested cannot supplant those investments that they are currently implementing.
Can you advise us on the scoring criteria of the NSGP applications?
The FY2022 FEMA Scoring Matrix, which can be used as a guide for FEMA’s scoring criteria, can be found here.

If FEMA does not approve an application because one item is ineligible, is the entire application denied?
If awarded, FEMA will just generally disallow the ineligible item and reduce the award by the budgeted amount for the ineligible item.

Can your Investment Justification request the use of off-duty law enforcement officers for the “contracted security personnel” request?
The reference to “hiring off duty law enforcement” intimates a sole source for providing contract security. Sole sourcing of this service is not allowed. This must be obtained following the requirements for state/federal procurement rules and regulations for goods and services.

Is there a sample of the FY2023 Investment Justification to refer to?
A copy of the FY2023 Investment Justification can be found on SCN’s NSGP page: https://www.securecommunitynetwork.org/resources/dhs-grant-funds-information.

What address should be listed on the Investment Justification – physical address or mailing address?
The Investment Justification asks for the nonprofit organization’s physical address.

What if our mailing address is different from our physical address?
The FY2023 Investment Justification requests the organization’s physical address. Please ask your SAA if your organization will need a separate UEI for your physical address if your mailing address is different than the physical address of the facility.

If our organization is not in the FY2023 NSGP-UA areas, are we still eligible to apply?
Yes. Nonprofit organizations that are not located in the NSGP-UA areas, are eligible to apply for NSGP-S funds. For a listing of the FY2023 NSGP-UA areas, please click here.

How do we obtain a UEI number?
Obtaining a UEI number is a free process. You can go to SAM.gov in order to obtain a UEI number. Please click here for more information on obtaining a UEI number. Some states also require that the nonprofit organization maintain an active SAM.gov account as well. Please check with your SAA for guidance.

In Part VII of the Investment Justification, how can we best describe the outputs and outcomes?
Each vulnerability and its related security investment will have an output and an outcome. For example, installation of the 2 requested cameras on the west exterior of our facility will better help our organization monitor and surveil the adjacent empty lot to identify suspicious activity in advance of an event. This will help to greatly mitigate the vulnerabilities identified in our
Vulnerability Assessment related to the lack of security along our west side perimeter and the threat of a facility breach in that area.

*When requesting materials such as cameras do you need to list the exact number of cameras? Same for doors, locks, etc.?*
Yes. You should include the number of investments that your organization would like to install in your facility. For example, 8 exterior cameras, 3 located on lighting poles in the parking lot, 1 adjacent to the main entrance to the facility, and 1 on each corner of the building (4 corners), to address inability to monitor the exterior of our facility and identify suspicious activity – equates to 8 cameras x $625, totaling $5,000; AEL #_____.

*Will there be character limits on the FY2023 NSGP Investment Justification?*
Yes. There are character limits on the FY2023 NSGP Investment Justification application.

*On the Investment Justification form, do we list the names of the people that will be implementing the project?*
Yes. Please supply the names, contact information and job description for each member of the project implementation team. Please make sure to name a project manager and an alternate project manager.

*How long is a vulnerability assessment valid for?*
A vulnerability assessment is generally valid for up to 36 months. However, please make sure that your assessment covers all the security investments that your nonprofit is asking for on your Investment Justification. If not, please submit an updated assessment.

*For the vendor quotes at time of application, do we need to have actual copies of the proposals?*
No. At time of application, it is only necessary to have reliable bids upon which your organization will be basing their requested budget items.

*When the SAAs send their applications to FEMA, do they send their score and if so how does that relate to the FEMA scoring?*
The SAAs send their “scored” applications to FEMA for FEMA’s review and scoring. FEMA does their own scoring, adds any bonus points and factor multipliers, and then combines the two scores for determination of final applicant awardees.

*How important is the specific threat requirement?*
This grant is specifically aimed at assisting nonprofit organizations who are a high risk of terrorist attack. Those applications that can successfully describe why their organization is at high risk will be more likely to be successful.

*Can a tenant apply for the FY2023 NSGP?*
Yes. However, on the application, the tenant must certify that the nonprofit tenant has the landlord’s permission to make the proposed investments.
Our nonprofit’s campus name is different than our nonprofit organization’s legal name. In what name should be apply?
The name on the nonprofit organization’s Investment Justification should match the nonprofit organization’s legal name.

What kinds of PA systems are allowable?
All PA systems or emergency notification systems must comply with SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Guide, including provisions on technical standards that ensure and enhance interoperable communications. The AEL code for PA systems is 03OE-03-MEGA (System, Public Address, Handheld or Mobile).

Can you provide guidance on how to complete the Milestone section of the Investment Justification?
Common milestones include, but are not limited to:

- Award notification and completion of award paperwork
- Time to secure bids that meet federal procurement requirements
- Time to select and award contracts to vendors
- Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) paperwork completion, submission, and approval
- Installation and testing of equipment
- Develop punch list and satisfy outstanding items and issues
- Train staff in use and maintenance of equipment and technologies
- Finalize delivery of project
- Schedule/conduct allowable training/exercises
- Vendor payments, grant closeout paperwork