Secure Community Network Helps Jewish Organizations Obtain $21 Million in Federal Grants to Improve Safety and Security

2022 Grant Funding Nearly Double That of Previous Year

The Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America, directly assisted Jewish organizations in obtaining $20.9 million through the federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) in 2022, according to preliminary grant announcements by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This was nearly double the $10.9 million that SCN assisted organizations in receiving in 2021, and nearly five times the $4.7 million obtained by organizations SCN assisted in 2020. Grants are administered through states and subject to final award in the coming weeks.

NSGP grants provide critical funding for security improvements at synagogues, community centers, schools, campus facilities, and other Jewish centers of life across the United States. In 2022, SCN completed 549 comprehensive assessments for organizations applying for NSGP funds, three times more than in 2021.

“Securing our community organizations so Jews feel comfortable walking into synagogue or sending their kids to day school is essential to preserving Jewish life and religious freedom in the United States,” said SCN National Director and CEO Michael Masters. “NSGP funds are a critical part of this, when used effectively and as part of a comprehensive security strategy. SCN is proud to partner with organizations at the national and local levels to access these funds. We are grateful for the strong support of the NSGP by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Administration, and throughout the United States Congress, and we join with faith communities across America to urge additional funding to meet the unprecedented need for security improvements in the face of rising threats and attacks.”

Federal funding for the NSGP has steadily increased in recent years—from $60 million in 2019 to $180 million in 2021 – but the annual need for grants has exceeded available funds. While funding for 2022 reached $250 million, grant requests totaled more than $447 million.

Previous NSGP grants have often yielded tangible results. A Jewish organization’s facility in Colorado was struck in a drive-by shooting, but security film on the windows, paid for with NSGP funds, stopped the bullets from entering the building. A synagogue in Georgia used an NSGP grant to implement a video surveillance system, which later enabled police to arrest a trespasser.
The NSGP is a competitive federal funding program established by Congress and administered by FEMA within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. SCN has worked in coordination with other partners, notably The Jewish Federations of North America, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and the Orthodox Union, to drive the expansion of the NSGP since its creation in 2004.

SCN provides essential resources for Jewish organizations and communities throughout North America to support their NSGP efforts, including in-person and online resources, and provides vulnerability assessments, consults on physical security solutions and strategies, offers grant review and guidance support, and more. Each year, SCN conducts a multi-part webinar series open to organizations from all faith communities, to provide detailed guidance and best practices for obtaining NSGP funds.

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The Secure Community Network (SCN), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. Founded in 2004 under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, SCN serves as the central organization dedicated exclusively to the safety and security of the American Jewish community, working across 146 federations, 50 partner organizations, over 300 independent communities, and other partners in the public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors. SCN is dedicated to ensuring that Jewish organizations, communities, life, and culture can not only exist safely and securely, but flourish. Learn more at securecommunitynetwork.org.