



# NATIONAL JEWISH SECURITY STANDARDS

## OVERVIEW

### WHAT ARE THE NATIONAL STANDARDS?

The National Jewish Security Standards represent an accreditation framework intended to provide guidance and clarity on the fundamental traits of a successful security program, ensuring that existing and nascent security programs – and the qualified, professional security executives who run them – will have clear guideposts, benchmarks, and expectations to better ensure their success, and therefore, the safety and security of the Jewish community.

### WHO DEVELOPED THE NATIONAL STANDARDS?

The National Standards were developed by the Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. The multi-step process involved a diverse group of stakeholders, including security executives, lay and professional leadership from the Jewish and broader faith-based communities, public safety organizational design experts, and law enforcement and security experts in the private, public, nonprofit, and academic sectors. Input from these groups complemented exhaustive research on domestic and international standards efforts in multiple fields, including but not limited to intelligence, physical security, training, law enforcement, and public safety.

### WHAT ARE THE NATIONAL STANDARDS BASED ON?

The National Standards were developed based on regulatory compliance, acquired experience, and various resources including guidance, regulations, and policies provided by or compiled from community and regional security initiatives, SCN, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, the National Board of Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard), the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), the Clery Act, ASIS International, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and others.

### WHY WERE THE NATIONAL STANDARDS DEVELOPED?

As SCN continues to build a security shield over the Jewish community of North America, the National Standards will ensure programs operate with consistency and integrity regardless of location, resourcing, or program maturity. The National Standards also support LiveSecure, the partnership between SCN and The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) to expand and fund best-practice, comprehensive security programs in every Jewish community.

### WHAT SUBJECTS DO THE NATIONAL STANDARDS COVER?

The National Standards are organized into seven main chapters:



#### 1. GOVERNANCE



#### 2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



#### 3. COMMUNITY SECURITY RISK MANAGEMENT



#### 4. INFORMATION SHARING AND INTELLIGENCE



#### 5. PHYSICAL AND OPERATIONAL SECURITY



#### 6. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



#### 7. TRAINING AND EXERCISES

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NATIONAL STANDARDS?

Adherence to the National Standards provides many benefits, including:

**Enhancing safety:** An accredited security program is a visible demonstration to stakeholders that the initiative is committed to providing the safest and most secure environment in which Jewish life can flourish.

**Promoting equity:** Accreditation ensures a security approach that reflects best practices in protecting individual dignity and civil rights and is specifically tailored to the unique safety and security issues facing the Jewish community and its diversity of members, institutions, practices, and lived experiences.

**Continuously improving:** The accreditation process encourages performance measurement and improvement through standardization, data and results-driven decisions, ongoing evaluation, and feedback loops.

**Educating staff:** The National Standards provide a framework to educate organization and facility staff and contractors on best-practice approaches and strategies to improve the performance, safety, and security of their work on behalf of communities.

**Expanding funding:** Accreditation allows Federation-based security programs to apply for LiveSecure grant funding and positions all security programs to maximize the potential for awards from the federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

**Improving consistency and sustainability:** Accreditation promotes standards that encourage security programs to consistently perform at high levels across all communities, over long periods of time.

**Reducing liability:** Accreditation assists in safeguarding programs from claims and lawsuits by providing guidelines for concrete and verifiable steps proven to prevent or mitigate potential impacts.

## WHO SHOULD USE THE NATIONAL STANDARDS?

The National Standards are available for use by any national, regional, or community Jewish security program or initiative, and are required for Federation programs seeking LiveSecure grant funding. Although the security of individual Jewish facilities is often at the heart of such efforts, the National Standards apply to the programs and initiatives rather than the individual facilities.

## WHO IS THE SECURE COMMUNITY NETWORK?

SCN, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America. SCN was founded in 2004 under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and works across 146 Federations, 50 partner organizations, over 300 independent communities, and other partners in the public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors. SCN's team of intelligence, law enforcement, homeland security, and military professionals work with communities and partners across North America to promote information sharing, development and implementation of best-practice policies and procedures, security assessments, physical security solutions, training and exercises, consultation, grant application assistance, and incident response. SCN is dedicated to ensuring that Jewish organizations, communities, life, and culture can not only exist safely and securely, but flourish.

## WHO IS THE JEWISH FEDERATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA?

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) represents 146 Jewish Federations and over 300 communities, which raise and distribute more than \$3 billion annually and through planned giving and endowment programs to support social welfare, social services and educational needs. The Federation movement protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), *tzedakah* (charity and social justice) and Torah (Jewish learning), including support for hospitals, nursing homes, community centers, family and children's service agencies, vocational training programs, immigrants, and Holocaust survivors.

## HOW CAN ORGANIZATIONS LEARN MORE?

For more information about the National Jewish Security Standards, contact SCN at [DutyDesk@securecommunitynetwork.org](mailto:DutyDesk@securecommunitynetwork.org) or visit [securecommunitynetwork.org/NationalStandards](https://securecommunitynetwork.org/NationalStandards)