



The Jewish Federations®  
OF NORTH AMERICA



## SCN – JFNA NAVIGATING THE NON-PROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM WEBINAR

17 December 2020

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) RESPONSE DOCUMENT

**Q: Are the new [grant application] forms available?**

A: We always post the most recent forms available once the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is released. Changes to the form are typically not substantive but rather related to software updates. Additionally, the State Administrative Agency (SAA) should also post or direct applicants to the relevant forms and instructions. We will send out notice of the NOFO and related forms and instructions when the program formally starts. As the content of the forms remains largely static from year to year, it is advisable to rely on the current form to draft initial responses ahead of the NOFO.

**Q: Will you answer questions about an existing grant, e.g., making a modification to our existing grant?**

A: Happy to answer questions about/troubleshoot an existing grant. It is true, that securing a post-award waiver to modify an approved grant is difficult and time consuming because the award was approved for specific purposes based on the risk assessment, investment justification, expected impacts and approval by both state and federal reviewers. Contact [Rob.Goldberg@Jewishfederations.org](mailto:Rob.Goldberg@Jewishfederations.org) for further consultation.

**Q: Has the format for submitting the grant been updated? Our volunteers live in the Mac world.**

A: The Investment Justification (IJ) is in an Excel format (a Microsoft application), which does not work well with Apple operating systems. Consequently, it is strongly recommended that applicants use a Microsoft platform to avoid any issues with the forms, formatting etc.

**Q: We have submitted grants in the past that were not funded. How can we get feedback on where these applications were deficient?**

A: There are several factors that influence award decisions that make it difficult to provide feedback to a particular applicant, including quantity of applicants (limited resources), quality of the application (competency and impact of the IJ), static factors (rankings of applicants from higher risk to less risk), risk ranking by state (based on risk analysis formula), and related national intelligence analysis (immediate security concerns facing the nation). Consequently, it is not feasible to assess a particular applicant's deficiencies. I would add that with a short window for review and thousands of applicants to review, FEMA is not in a position to provide feedback on the decisions made.

**Q: We applied for a grant last year and our application was declined. Is there any way to determine why no funds were granted? My representative at the Texas Governor's office said there was no feedback provided.**

A: There are several factors that influence award decisions that make it difficult to provide feedback to a particular applicant, including quantity of applicants (limited resources), quality of the application (competency and impact of the IJ), static factors (rankings of applicants from higher risk to less risk), risk ranking by state (based on risk analysis formula), and related national intelligence analysis (immediate security concerns facing the nation). Consequently, it is not feasible to assess a particular applicant's deficiencies. I would add that with a short window for review and thousands of applicants to review, FEMA is not in a position to provide feedback on the decisions made.

**Q: Are examples of successful submissions available? We would like to improve our chances of funding this year.**

A: The review process is diffuse and is influenced by both state and local assessments involving multiple factors, and thousands of reviewers. Furthermore, each applicant is required to develop their application based on very individualized circumstances. It is, therefore, difficult to provide a "sample application." A successful application submitted in one state may not have been successful in another state. Rather, we have developed detailed written guidance to assist applicants with completing each section of the application. It is advisable to carefully review the guidance when thinking about and drafting responses. To receive this guidance, contact Rob Goldberg at: [Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org](mailto:Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org).

**Q: Will this be available as a replay to be reviewed later to study from?**

A: Yes, the webinar and related materials will be made available.

**Q: If we are fortunate enough to receive funding, is it possible to move the money from one to the other -- provided both were approved?**

A: Funding may only be used for the investments specifically approved. Post-award waivers to modify approved investments are frowned-upon by FEMA, require SAA approval and FEMA approval, are time-consuming (could take up to a year or more for an outcome), and difficult to secure. Each waiver is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**Q: Do we apply as an individual synagogue or through our local Federation? We have 10-12 synagogues in our Federation area.**

A: Each applicant must have a specific physical address. Except in rare occasions, an organization would apply individually for its own grant.

**Q: Can a synagogue that is not 501(c)(3) apply?**

A: A place of worship, such as a synagogue, is exempt under the federal tax code from registering for a tax ID number. In the information section of the application, a synagogue would leave blank the question asking for its tax ID (employer identification number/IEN) number. However, the State Administrative Agency may require a place of worship to provide a written statement or affidavit attesting to the fact that the organization has exempt status as a place of worship.

**Q: I don't think we are a 501c3 non-profit. Are there no exceptions? Are we unable to apply then?**

A: Eligible nonprofit organizations are those organizations that are described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such code. No exceptions.

**Q: How are the UASI areas determined - by zip code?**

A: Urban Areas relate to Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), which are geographical regions with relatively high population density at their core and close economic ties throughout the area. They can vary in composition. Typically, an MSA is centered on a single large city that wields substantial influence over the region, such as New York City. However, some metropolitan areas contain more than one large city with no single municipality holding a substantially dominant position, such as Dallas–Fort Worth, Norfolk–Hampton Roads, Riverside–San Bernardino or Minneapolis–Saint Paul. There are 384 metropolitan statistical areas. The NSGP Urban Area Program is open to the 100 largest. Of those, in any given NSGP cycle, the program includes those that make up 85 percent of the nationwide risk in any given year. Typically, about 30-35 urban areas qualify, annually. The State Administration Agency can help an applicant determine which program they should apply for, based on their physical address.

**Q: Does being rewarded in the previous year negatively affect the application for FY 21?**

A: There are a number of factors that determine an applicant's final score. Two consequential factors are the organization type and history of prior funding under NSGP. An organization's raw score will be multiplied by a factor between 1 and 3 depending on organization type. The raw score of nonprofit groups that are at a high risk of terrorist attacks due to their ideology, beliefs, or mission will be multiplied by a factor of three, for medical and educational institutions by a factor of 2, and for all other nonprofit organizations by a factor of 1. An organization that has not received prior year NSGP funding will receive addition bonus points (likely 5 bonus points this year).

**Q: Do Congress or individual states have the ability to reevaluate the Period of Performance in effect for FY 20 grants due to the impact of COVID lock-down?**

A: The 36-month period of performance should provide sufficient time for FY 2020 sub-recipients to complete their projects. However, extensions to the period of performance are generally allowed under limited circumstances. In cooperation with the State Administrative Agency, a sub-recipient would need to submit a formal, written request that contains specific and compelling justifications as to why an extension is required.

**Q: How do I get the written guidance?**

A: Request materials at: [Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org](mailto:Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org).

**Q: Do no personnel costs mean that installation costs are not covered? Or does it mean that they are not covered if done by your own personnel?**

A: All permissible costs to be considered for funding using the NSGP must be included in the sub-applicant's Investment Justification (IJ). If it is not included in the IJ, equipment or activities normally permissible will be disqualified for funding. Additionally, pre-award costs are generally not allowed, such as security investments made prior to the award or costs associated with conducting the risk assessment or completing the Investment Justification. While contracted security personnel are allowed under this program, funds may not be used to purchase equipment for contracted security. There are now

prohibitions regarding certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment as mandated by section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019. However, sub-recipients may use NSGP funding to procure replacement equipment and services impacted by this prohibition, provided the equipment was previously purchased with NSGP funds and the costs are otherwise consistent with the requirements of the NSGP program. Management and administration costs directly related to the award up to 5% of the award amount are also permissible.

**Q: Just to be clear, if you go ahead and make investments prior to receiving funding, reimbursement will not be allowed so we should hold off on improvements until next fall?**

A: Pre-award costs are generally not allowed, such as security investments made prior to the award, or costs associated with conducting the risk assessment or completing the Investment Justification. No work can commence until the State Administrative Agency says so. After the grant award is announced by FEMA to the individual SAAs on a rolling basis, which could take a few weeks to several weeks, a successful sub-recipient will receive an email notification followed by a contract to be executed. The contract includes a number of specific prerequisites that must be satisfied before the SAA will allow the project to commence. Once major prerequisite requires the satisfaction of an Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation review. In general, while the general award announcement may occur in early September, it may be 2-4 months after that a subrecipient will receive a green light to commence its project.

**Q: Is there a list of recommended grant writers who can save the NSGP-S communities who might not have the knowledge or expertise to write the grant?**

A: Often Federation government affairs professionals and JCRC directors provide application assistance or advice, as do Federation community directors, SCN regional security, community security and camp security advisors, and Hillel safety and security advisors. Their advice comes without a fee. There are grant writers and vendors that may be hired from the private sector whose fees cannot be reimbursed through the grant. We do not provide referrals or vouch for the quality or veracity of their work.

**Q: If we obtained a grant in a prior year and our overall situation (e.g., risks, threats) hasn't changed greatly, is it likely that we can reuse the bulk of our investment justification and primarily focus on the specific items (e.g., equipment, training/exercises) that we are looking for funding to address, or do they generally expect new top-to-bottom "from scratch" analysis each year?**

A: Generally speaking, any risk assessment 3 years or older should be redone. Any new investments being sought through the grant must be identified and supported through the risk assessment. If not, an applicant may need to supplement their existing risk assessment to cover new issues or concerns. If an applicant is planning to complete unfinished investments identified in its previous assessment, there should be no problem in relying on the existing assessment. If not sure, check with the SAA for advice.

**Q: Does the organization type have to be Jewish on the application for this program?**

A: No. Organizations that are described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such code are eligible.

**Q: Because our 501c3 flows to us through our good standing in USCJ, would we put down the EIN for USCJ, our own EIN, or nothing? Would the SAA provide more detailed instruction?**

A: The sub-recipient must be a 501(c)(3) organization with its own EIN or be exempt as a place of worship. The sub-applicant would provide its EIN number where requested in the information section of the Investment Justification.

**Q: Is there a point of contact available for the J-VOAD?**

A: Two Jewish networks that help coordinate Jewish response to disasters are the Jewish Coalition of Disaster Relief (Website: <https://www.jcdr.org/>) and NECHAMA - Jewish Response to Disaster (Website: <https://nechama.org/>).

**Q: Are cemeteries eligible?**

A: Yes. Any 501(c)(3) organization may apply. And, yes, cemeteries have been funded in previous grant cycles.

**Q: How many points do we need to get the funds and how are they allocated?**

A: There is no set point threshold to securing funding. Simplified: Through a several step process of both state- and federal-level review, applications are scored high to low and approved in descending order until funding runs out. Factors that affect the ranking include risk factors by state, intelligence analysis, type of organization, completeness, quality and efficacy of the application, whether a sub-applicant has previously been funded.

**Q: Can an institution that received a Homeland security grant 10 years ago apply with a reasonable chance of receiving a new grant? Does applicant lose points on application when they add up points?**

A: In recent years, increased funding availability (in large part a consequence of JFNA advocacy) has translated into more grants funded. For example, when the program was funded at \$25 million in FY 2017, 906 grants applications were submitted, and 349 awards were made, equal to a 38.5% rate of success. When the program was funded at \$90 million in FY 2020, 2,175 applications were submitted, and 1,137 awards were made, equal to a 52% rate of success. We expect to secure significantly more funding for FY 2021. At current funding levels, the expected 5-point bonus for first time awardees will have less impact.

**Q: Our synagogue received this grant many years ago. The equipment installed at that time is now very out of date and not functioning well. Am I correct in assuming that once an institution receives a grant, no matter how many years back, makes us a previous recipient and thus will not receive extra points as a new proposal submitter?**

A: Correct, a past recipient will not receive a new-recipient bonus.

**Q: Will fencing be part of physical hardening? It is not listed here.**

A: Yes, the applicable AEL designation is: 14SW-01-WALL - Barriers: Fences; Jersey Walls. The AEL may be accessed at: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/authorized-equipment-list>. Eligible NSGP equipment is limited to Categories 14 (physical security enhancement equipment) and 15 (inspection and screening systems).

**Q: Can we get funding for Physical improvement for communication - something like Security App?**

A: Eligible NSGP equipment is limited to Categories 14 (physical security enhancement equipment) and 15 (inspection and screening systems). However, within Category 14, AEL 14SW-01-LRHW Long Range Hailing

and Warning Device is not currently an eligible cost under NSGP. We have made a request to expand eligibility for NSGP use and will update the field should FEMA make this an eligible category for FY 2021.

**Q: I thought you said religious institutions (like a synagogue) were exempt from the 501(c)(3) / EIN number designation. Is this not the case?**

A: A place of worship, such as a synagogue, is exempt under the federal tax code from registering for a tax ID number. In the information section of the application, a synagogue would leave blank the question asking for its tax ID (employer identification number/IEN) number. However, the State Administrative Agency may require a place of worship to provide a written statement or affidavit attesting to the fact that the organization has exempt status as a place of worship.

**Q: How can I get on Rob Goldberg's distribution list?**

A: Request participation at: [Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org](mailto:Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org).

**Q: If a nonprofit receives for example, funding for a fence and funding for alarms, can the nonprofit decide to construct a fence but instead of spending the alarm allotment for alarms, use the alarm funds to upgrade the fence?**

A: Securing a post-award waiver to modify an approved grant is difficult and time-consuming because the award was approved for specific purposes based on the risk assessment, investment justification, expected impacts and approval by both state and federal reviewers. Post-award waivers to modify approved investments are frowned-upon by FEMA, require SAA approval and FEMA approval, and difficult to secure. Each waiver is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**Q: In general, are remedial costs for systems/programs covered? For example, getting Wi-Fi supplied so it can be used for security infrastructure, or would just the security component be covered?**

A: in this example, Wi-Fi could be characterized as an indirect overhead utility cost. On the permissibility of budgeting for this cost within the application, FEMA provides: "Indirect costs are allowable under this program. Applicants with a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement that desire to charge indirect costs to an award must provide a copy of their negotiated indirect cost rate agreement at the time of application. Applicants that are not required by 2 C.F.R. Part 200 to have a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement but are required by 2 C.F.R. Part 200 to develop an indirect cost rate proposal must provide a copy of their proposal at the time of application. Post-award requests to charge indirect costs will be considered on a case-by-case basis and based upon the submission of an agreement or proposal." It is advisable to confer with the State Administrative Agency on this topic.

**Q: Do you have a suggestion for other resources if we won't qualify for this program?**

A: For planning, training and exercises, there may be a number of free or moderate cost opportunities. SCN may provide tools or resources. DHS Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives also produces a number of tools and resources. Additionally, several states (i.e., CA, CT, FL, IL, MD, MA, MN, NJ, NY, OH and PA) have grant programs relative to physical security, training and contracted security personnel – they may vary greatly in what and how their programs operate. To receive a contact list regarding state programs, email Rob Goldberg at: [Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org](mailto:Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org).

**Q: I work within a Catholic School and we received this info to attend. Do we qualify?**

A: Yes, a Catholic school could apply. Eligible nonprofit organizations are those organizations that are described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such code.

**Q: We have an annual security contract that is over \$200K each year. Are you saying that we can't submit anything that is already contracted and that we need to hire new security guards to qualify for the grant?**

A: The grant cannot supplant existing security contracts. If there is justification as set forth in your vulnerability/risk assessment and expanding your current contracted security personnel is warranted, then that could be an eligible cost. If your vulnerability/risk assessment raises concern about other aspects of your institution's physical security, then it may be advisable to address those vulnerabilities.

**Q: Is it possible to apply for funds for security and another form of security, i.e., bullet proof glass for the reception desk?**

A: An investment justification can seek multiple investments among eligible costs, whether target hardening, training of contracted security personnel, etc. so long as each investment is called for in the vulnerability/risk assessment, referenced in the applicable parts of the IJ (i.e., Parts III and IV), and are considered efficient, effective, and impactful investments to best address the identified vulnerabilities and potential consequences.

**Q: Is possible to get a copy of a grant application that was awarded to see how to it was put together?**

A: The review process is diffuse and is influenced by both state and local assessments involving multiple factors, and thousands of reviewers. Furthermore, each applicant is required to develop their application based on very individualized circumstances. It is, therefore, difficult to provide a "sample application." Rather, JFNA has developed detailed written guidance to assist applicants complete each section of the application. It is advisable to carefully review the guidance when thinking about and drafting responses. To receive this guidance contact Rob Goldberg at: [Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org](mailto:Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org).

**Q: Would you recommend that we work with local authorities to do a security assessment now? Where do we find tools to do a self-assessment?**

A: Local law enforcement often conduct assessments when requested. If requested, it is advisable that an organization provide them with a reputable assessment tool to replace or supplement one they may already have that may not be sufficient. Links to several assessment resources may be found in JFNA's written guidance, including an assessment tool SCN has adapted as a best practice at: [https://mcusercontent.com/0b3c7e1421bd2734b0610a1fb/files/8ffaa771-6bd4-46cc-b332-3246eba62e9e/Facility\\_Assessment\\_Tool\\_Final\\_23Dec2020.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/0b3c7e1421bd2734b0610a1fb/files/8ffaa771-6bd4-46cc-b332-3246eba62e9e/Facility_Assessment_Tool_Final_23Dec2020.pdf). Additionally, Federation community security directors, SCN regional and community security advisors and SCN may be able to conduct or assist with security an assessment.

**Q: Is it enough to mention the general categories of core capabilities or should institutions specifically list the capabilities that are found in the five categories?**

A: The response should be specific. Think of core capabilities as the intended outcome or achievements of the project, resulting from the specific investments made to address the specific threats and

vulnerabilities assessed. A breakdown of the Core Capabilities and how they pertain to the NSGP program may be found in JFNA's written guidance.

**Q: Does the grant cover any design costs, i.e., for a security vestibule?**

A: NSGP funding may not be used for construction and renovation projects without prior written approval from DHS/FEMA. All recipients of NSGP funds must request and receive prior approval from DHS/FEMA before any NSGP funds are used for any construction or renovation. The total cost of any construction or renovation paid for using NSGP funds may not exceed 15% of the NSGP award. Given DHS/FEMA's approval, the State Administrative Agency would have to be engaged at the onset to facilitate.

**Q: Do they award all or nothing of what was requested, or is it possible to get a partial award?**

A: It is possible to get a partial award. While typically an Urban Area award is funded in full, it is more likely for an applicant under the State program to receive a partial award. The reason for this is that under the State initiative, FEMA allocates to each state its funding within the NOFO. States may and have the authority to reduce the spending award cap to maximize the number of awards they may choose to make. In those situations, a sub-recipient may be asked to revise their IJ in order to align with the reduced cap.

**Q: Please send me the written guidance information.**

A: To receive written guidance, send request to Rob Goldberg at: [Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org](mailto:Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org).

**Q: Is there a capitated number of words or pages for these grants?**

A: Yes. The Investment Justification will specify which sections have character limitations.

**Q: What is the performance period for the grant?**

A: The anticipated period of performance will be 36 months. The period of performance will commence when the awards are noticed by FEMA around September 1, 2021 and no later than September 30th. The projected end-date for FY 2021 projects is August 31, 2024. Regarding the milestone timeline, a project cannot commence until prerequisite requirements of the acceptance agreement are met, including satisfying FEMA's Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation review and the State Administrative Agency gives the go-ahead. This could take several months (i.e., 60-to-90 days or more) to complete. Therefore, while the period of performance is projected to be 36 months, actual project implementation time will be shorter.

**Q: Is it possible to get the notes that Rob read? He gave great suggestions in how to answer specific questions.**

A: It is advisable to review JFNA's written guidance that provides greater details and examples for completing the IJ. To receive written guidance, send request to Rob Goldberg at: [Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org](mailto:Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org).

**Q: The timeline was delayed for grants this year due to COVID impact. Are we expecting something similar this spring?**

A: FEMA's general notice of award came early this year as the review process was more streamlined than in year's past. FEMA's specific notice of award to states and the state's notice of award to nonprofit subrecipients did take longer than in past years, arguably as a consequence of the COVID pandemic. Both

FEMA and SAAs have had to do double duty as they have been deployed in many respects to address immediate pandemic relief while also carrying out the administrative oversight of the NSGP program. We cannot conjecture at this point whether continuing COVID response will be a factor when the FY 2021 grant awards are announced next August-September.

**Q: Our synagogue shares a building (ownership) with the local day school. How is it best to apply jointly? Two separate applications? Take turns applying (one year the shul, the next year the school, etc.)?**

A: Good question. It depends. Best to have a conversation with the SAA, who may have reservations. Generally speaking, if the two organizations have separate EINs and conduct their business as separate and distinct entities, the fact that they share the same address should not impact eligibility of either organization. It would be advisable that they do not apply for redundant investments (i.e., same camera for same door), but rather to complement one another. Both would necessitate individual vulnerability risk assessments and their respective applications would need to comport with all aspects of the grant which are individual in nature.

**Q: Do you have resources to review our last year's grant to help us identify deficiencies?**

A: There are several factors that influence award decisions that make it difficult to provide feedback to a particular applicant, including quantity of applicants (limited resources), quality of the application (competency and impact of the IJ), static factors (rankings of applicants from higher risk to less risk), risk ranking by state (based on risk analysis formula), and related national intelligence analysis (immediate security concerns facing the nation). Consequently, it is not feasible to assess a particular applicant's deficiencies.

**Q: Any idea on when these funds might become available and how much notice we will have for the submittal based on past experience?**

A: Congress is on the cusp of finalizing appropriations for FY 2021; it could occur as soon as this week. Once funding for NSGP becomes law, FEMA will take about 60 days to inform the State Administrative Agencies of the NSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity. From there, the State Administrative Agencies will have between 45 to 60 days to receive, score, and submit sub-grant applications to FEMA. Within this time frame, the SAAs will establish the grant period to receive sub-grant applications, which can vary by jurisdiction. Generally speaking, we expect nonprofits will have about 30 days to complete and submit their applications to their SAAs.

**Q: Will there be matching requirements?**

A: No matching requirement.

**Q: Is paying for a project manager for part of a project a permissible use of funds?**

A: Sub-recipients may allocate up to 5 percent of their budget on Management and Administration costs associated with the subaward. This cost would have to be reflected in the proposed budget set forth in the narrative section of Part IV of the Investment Justification.

**Q: Will previous grant recipients have any bearing on this funding cycle? I.e., if you received a grant in a previous year, will you get the same opportunity as anyone else this year?**

A: The opportunity is the same for all applicants. However, applicants who have not previously received an award will receive a 5-point bonus assessed to their score.

**Q: Which fiscal year is this grant information for? We were just awarded a grant from MSP/EMHSD for 2021.**

A: This webinar is to assist with the application process for FEMA's Fiscal Year 2021 Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which is expected to commence as soon as late February 2021. If you received an NSGP grant this calendar year, it was for the Fiscal Year 2020 NSGP program. While calendar years run January through December, the federal Fiscal Year runs October through September. This can get confusing to those of us who do not ordinarily apply the fiscal year calendar to our everyday lives.

**Q: Is there a way to find out how many points we received on last year's application, and where we were deficient?**

A: It may be possible to request the state provided score from your State Administrative Agency, but not the federal score from FEMA. The Secretary of Homeland Security makes the final award determinations based on FEMA's recommendation. While the State score may be instructive, there are several factors that influence award decisions that make it difficult to provide feedback to a particular applicant.

**Q: In what manner will the recording be made available? Will we be notified, or do we just go looking for it? We have no local federation.**

A: SCN will email links to the recorded presentation to all participants in the program. It is advisable to join Rob Goldberg's distribution list to receive updates, notices and additional guidance relative to the rollout of the NSGP NOFO and to provide technical assistance when requested of distribution subscribers. You may request being added to Rob's distribution list by emailing him at: [Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org](mailto:Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org).

**Q: How long after receipt of the grant form would we need to apply?**

A: Generally speaking, and based on recent cycles, sub-applicants will have approximately 30 days to apply once their SAA has made notification of the opportunity locally. The exact timeline can vary somewhat between states, with some setting shorter application deadlines than others. In some years, the deadline has been extreme – as little as 14 days. The timing is impacted by when Congress completes the appropriations process for the year, which was just completed. We suggest interested organizations prepare for their applications now, to be ready for any application period.

**Q: Historically, is a more modest request (<\$25K) more likely to be approved than a larger one?**

A: Generally speaking, sub-recipients are awarded what they request. There are instances where the SAA, especially with respect to the State initiative, has reduced the award cap regardless of what subrecipients have requested. Rule of thumb is to request what is recommended as appropriate investments to respond to the identified assessed vulnerabilities.

**Q: We are a small congregation with basically no history of vandalism or terrorism. We applied last year and were turned down. Is there any way to get feedback on why we were denied in the past? With this history, do we stand a chance for grant acceptance?**

A: There is no requirement that an organization be the target of threat of attack. It is sufficient that by reason of their ideology, beliefs, and mission, they may be at a high risk of a potential terrorist attack. They may respond to the threat question in Part III of the IJ by exemplifying a “relative threats to the sub-applicant,” meaning discussing the identification and substantiation of prior threats or attacks against a closely related organization by a terrorist organization, network, or cell (either foreign or domestic terrorists) or violent domestic extremist. To assist with this question, JFNA provides a Threat Report that aggregates numerous recent threat incidents targeting Jews and Jewish institutions that have been reported in the public record. Since there is limited working space in the IJ, the sub-applicant should be selective in choosing appropriate examples to incorporate into the response: events that are most recent, geographically proximate, and closely related to their type or circumstance of their organization or are of such magnitude or breadth that they create a significant existential threat to the Jewish community at large. To receive this guidance, you may request joining Rob’s distribution list by emailing him at: [Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org](mailto:Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org). With respect to repeat applicants, I remind that there are limited resources and many factors that go into determining the award outcomes in any given year. There are many examples where applicants have secured the funding in the second, third or fourth year of applying. Given that the program has received year-over-year funding increases since FY 2017 and expects an additional funding increase for FY 2021, it would be reasonable to advise an organization to reapply.

**Q: If a synagogue leases or rents a system for hardening, submits a grant app, then receives the grant, can it then purchase the system to make the temporary system permanent?**

A: Strictly speaking, the prior purchase or acquisition of permissible equipment are not reimbursable expenses. In fact, with said equipment already in place, the vulnerability/risk assessment would not substantiate the need for equipment already in place. Additionally, using federal grant funds to purchase used, dated or potentially obsolete equipment may not meet FEMA Approved Equipment Standards.

**Q: On a future webinar, will you demonstrate how to apply?**

A: JFNA provides detailed grant guidance, including updates and notices on how to apply for the grant. To review guidance already produced and to receive updates and notices reflective of upcoming information and instructions from FEMA, request joining Rob’s distribution list by emailing him at: [Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org](mailto:Rob.Goldberg@jewishfederations.org). Additionally, future JFNA/SCN webinars will include new or additional pertinent grant information that comes to our attention.

***Disclaimer:***

*The information contained in this document has been compiled and produced solely for the purposes of informing nonprofit organizations as it relates to the Nonprofit Security Grant (NSGP) and State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP).*

*The information reflects the best efforts by SCN, JFNA and its partners to provide answers to common questions regarding the grant programs. Applicants are encouraged to check with their State Administrative Agencies (SAA’s) for specific information and consult a grant professional for further guidance.*

*The guidance is being provided for educational and informational purposes only, without representation, guarantee or warranty of any kind. SCN and its partners are not responsible for any injury, loss or damages to persons or property arising from the use or misuse of this information.*