

## FFY24 Nonprofit Security Grant Program

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
Office of Grants and Research



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**Q: Do the Risk Assessment findings have to be related to terrorist attack attempts and/or in response to a terrorist or hate group?**

*A: The Vulnerability Assessment identifies potential risks at your organization. In your application, it is best practice to tie in risks to your organization or area to your projects.*

**Q: Will the awards from the February Massachusetts Nonprofit Security Grant (MNSGP) be announced before the application deadline for this grant?**

*A: MNSGP is in the final review/award approval stages. Currently there is no information as to the date the awards will be announced.*

**Q: If you are using boulders as a barrier to malicious drivers is that considered landscaping?**

*A: No that would not be considered landscaping.*

**Q: Would a domestic violence agency that has a security assessment in hand with recommendations be an eligible applicant?**

*A: If your organization is a 501(C)(3) organization you are eligible to be considered for this grant.*

**Q: Will there ever be feedback for those who are not granted an award?**

*A: Once grants have been awarded, we will provide organizations who did not receive an award with a notification of that. We cannot provide specific information as to why you were not awarded but you will receive notice that you did not receive an award.*

**Q: In the past, EOPPS reviewed and ranked applications and then DHS made the final decisions. Is it new this year that EOPSS is making the final decisions, not DHS/FEMA?**

*A: This is a new process. OGR will review and rank applications and they will be submitted to FEMA for validation of OGR recommendations based on the FEMA screening form.*

**Q: If you need to cut down a bush to install a fence, is landscaping cost to remove the bush not allowed now?**

*A: That would be a component piece of the installation and not considered landscaping.*

**Q: Does DHS "validation" not mean "final decision making" on IJ's?**

*A: OGR is going to score and rank applications as we normally do. We will then be submitted to FEMA for validation using their score sheets. This is a new process this year.*

**Q: Will a copy of this presentation be sent to us as a reference?**

*A: Yes, all attendees will receive a copy of the presentation by the end of this week.*

**Q: Does the Worcester-area qualify to apply for this grant?**

*A: Yes! Worcester-area organizations are eligible to apply using the NSGP-S grant.*

**Q: Are bullet-proof vests and body-worn cameras allowable expenses?**

*A: No. Neither of these items are allowable expenses.*

**Q: What is the process to apply through the State if you are not in one of the locations that are eligible to apply directly?**

*A: Eligible applicants for this grant must have allocation/physical presence within the state of Massachusetts. If you are an entity that operates outside the state but have a physical presence in the state, you can apply.*

**Q: Is Contracted Security a new category this year?**

*A: No, it is not a new category. You cannot request contracted security for no more than 50% of your grant award.*

**Q: I represent a house of worship. Who can submit and serve as the "Authorized Organization Representative"? Could that be a layperson who volunteers in the community, or would it have to be an elected leader?**

*A: This could be your Executive Director, Director of Security, etc. A representative from the organization needs to be listed in the application so we know who to send the contract and grant information to.*

**Q: Can we include up to 5% M&A without an indirect cost agreement with a federal agency?**

*A: Yes, that is correct.*

**Q: Do we need to include quotes for purchases of equipment and proposed improvements/maintenance**

*A: No, you do not. OGR/FEMA requests that quotes/estimates not be submitted with the application.*

**Q: Just for clarification on the building/space. We must already own or be in our space. We cannot be in the process of purchasing or moving into a new space, correct?**

*A: Yes, that is correct.*

**Q: Could you clarify the geography that is included in this grant? We are in Stoneham, MA which is in Greater Boston but not on your list of cities.**

*A: NSGP-UA: include Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, Brookline, Winthrop. NSGP-S: all other applicants not in a UA community. Stoneham would be in the NSGP-S*

**Q: How many grants are awarded per application period?**

*A: We will receive and review all applications that come in from eligible applicants applying. At this point, we cannot determine the number of grants to be awarded.*

**Q: How can we look up if we have an "indirect cost agreement" with our cognizant federal agency?**

*A: OGR does not have access to this information, it would be an agreement enacted with a federal entity by an organization. Suggest consulting with your fiscal team or Comptroller.*

**Q: Could you please clarify the difference between vulnerability assessment and sub-grantee risk assessment?**

*A: The sub-grantee risk assessment is an OGR document that is a financial risk form and doesn't tie into the Vulnerability Assessment. The Vulnerability Assessment is the document created by the applicant and is used to identify and validate physical security deficiencies of your organization/facility and is the foundation of an NSGP application.*

**Q: Just to clarify, if our only security costs that we need covered are personnel and we don't have other physical improvements or non-personnel items that need funding, we can't apply because we exceed 50% maximum requirement?**

*A: That is correct. You must have a matching project and cannot just apply for contracted security.*

**Q: Are security doors, windows and fences considered Construction or Equipment?**

*A: These are Equipment as listed in the allowable equipment list.*

**Q: Can you please clarify which cameras are typically approved?**

*A: Security cameras for indoors and outdoors. Not Allowable - Facial recognition cameras, license plate reader cameras or body worn cameras.*

**Q: Can a nonprofit get reimbursed for work that has been done?**

*A: No. Reimbursement cannot be made for any work started/completed before your grant award date. Also, cannot reimburse for all projects started/completed before receiving EHP approval.*

**Q: Are houses of worship that are recognized as nonprofit by IRS but are not 501(c)(3)s eligible?**

*A: All faith-based organizations are eligible to apply.*

**Q: If we are just applying for this security grant, for the UEI there are two applications. One for All Awards and the other for Financial Assistance Awards Only. Should we just use the Financial Assistance Awards application form?**

*A: Select Financial Assistance Awards*

**Q: Would a childcare center that has not had a direct active threat yet but who is at risk for violence based on high-risk population served eligible?**

*A: As to threats, organizations should mention any threats they have experienced, direct or indirect. If you are a 501c3 organization with a physical presence in Massachusetts, you are eligible to be considered for this grant.*

**Q: If MNSGP ARPA applicants this past winter not only do not find out before the NSGP deadline if they received the grant AND were going to apply for different equipment in NSGP anyway, can they apply for this different additional equipment not in the ARPA grant even if it is the same type of equipment? i.e. ARPA had 3 doors. NSGP has 3 different doors not in ARPA?**

*A: . If the projects/work are distinct from in this instance, the MNSGP, an application may be made for new projects for the NSGP. You cannot duplicate projects.*

**Q: Is NSGP-S open for applications now?**

*A: Yes*

**Q: When I go on the State website it shows that the NSGP-S program deadline has passed. Please explain.**

*A: It has not, application period is currently open with a deadline to apply by 4:00PM, Monday, June 3, 2024*

**Q: Is there technical assistance (TA) available for grant applicants?**

*A: If you have questions regarding the application, please contact Brian Nichols @ [brian.p.nichols@mass.gov](mailto:brian.p.nichols@mass.gov)*

**Q: Are bank statements part of the application?**

*A: No, they are not required*

**Q: Can the cost of a project manager be included in the budget application?**

*A: No*

**Q: Does replacement of windows/doors automatically require an EHP review?**

*A: Any installation/mounting of equipment, ground disturbance, various offsite training, and exercise activities, etc. would require submission of an EHP Screening form with subsequent FEMA review.*

**Q: What constitutes "Construction and Renovation" costs? For example, if our organization needed to upgrade the physical doors for improving security.**

*A: If replacing/installing doors that would not be considered Construction and Renovation. Doors fall under Equipment and are listed on the Authorized Equipment List - 14SW-01-DOOR Doors and Gates, Impact Resistant*

**Q: Can projects that have been contracted for but not started be included?**

*A: If a contract for projects/work between your organization and contractor is in place but no project work/installation, etc. has been started/completed it can be included as part of the application. If a grant is awarded, the project would be subject to FEMA review via the submission of an EHP Screening Form, receipt of an EHP Review Completion letter before any project work/installation could take place.*

**Q: I am confused by the limit of 15% for construction. If we are looking to replace a door for example, including install, would you count that as construction?**

*A: Not applicable doors are an equipment item, not construction and renovation - 14SW-01-DOOR Doors and Gates, Impact Resistant*

**Q: Are Community Centers owned and operating by a 501(c)(3) qualify even if the building itself may not be an independent 501(c)(3)?**

*A: If you are a non-profit leasing the building, you may apply*

**Q: Is removal of trees and thinning of bottom of thick trees, to enhance visibility, considered landscaping?**

*A: It would be considered landscaping, removal of trees, shrubs etc. are allowable only if tied into an installation project, i.e. walls, fences, etc.*

**Q: If we were to move our guard shack by about 15 feet, would that require prior approval?**

*A: Any activities, in this case, moving guard shack, would be considered ground disturbance and the project would be subject to FEMA review via the submission of an EHP Screening Form, and subsequent receipt of an EHP Review Completion letter from FEMA, before any project work/installation could take place. Would also recommend consulting with the local building/zoning department for any restrictions/permit requirements.*