

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Office of Grants and Research
Notice of Availability of Grant Funds**



**State Fiscal Year 2027
Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Grant Program**

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SFY27 Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Grant Program

Notice of Availability of Grant Funds

Office of Grants and Research

October 16, 2026

Introduction

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR) will make available **\$4,465,000** for **nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations** (such as faith-based institutions, medical and health care facilities, and other human service entities) to competitively solicit one-time grant funding to enhance building safety and security for its members/visitors and staff. This Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) will provide all the information needed to submit an application for consideration under the **SFY27 Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Grant Program (CNSGP)**.

Priority will be given to applicants demonstrating the **greatest need** (experienced threats and or incidents of terrorism or hate crimes known or believed to be related to their nonprofit organization's purpose, mission, or services), **propose cost-effective solutions** to addressing high-priority security gaps or weaknesses, and have **NOT** received a previous CNSGP or related federal nonprofit award from OGR. Previous awardees are eligible to apply; **however, funding preference will be given first to those who have yet to secure funding in past years for this initiative**. After all potential first-time awardees are considered for funding, if there are remaining funds available, repeat awardees will then be considered. Additional information about the "Review and Selection" process can be found on page 9 of this AGF.

Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must be a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and may solicit up to **\$75,000** in funding under this competitive opportunity.

Only one **(1)** application per nonprofit location can be submitted for consideration of funding. If a nonprofit organization has additional locations, it must submit a separate application for consideration of funding.

Note: The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) does not require certain organizations such as churches, mosques, and synagogues to apply for and receive a recognition of exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the IRC. Such organizations are automatically exempt if they meet the requirements of section 501(c)(3). These organizations are not required to provide evidence that they are nonprofit organizations (as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such code). These organizations are not required to provide recognition of exemption. For organizations that the IRS requires to apply for and receive a recognition of exemption under 501(c)(3), the state may or may not require recognition of exemption, as long as the method chosen is applied consistently.

Massachusetts State Legislation

Per legislative language, funding shall be expended for a nonprofit security grant program to provide support for target hardening and other physical security enhancements to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of terrorist attacks or hate crimes as defined in [Ch.22c Sec.32](#) of Massachusetts General Laws.

Important Dates

Key Activity	Dates
AGF Posted	October 16, 2026
Application Assistance Webinar (Optional)	October 27, 2026, at 11:00 AM CNSGP Technical Assistance Webinar After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
Application Due Date	November 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
Award Notification (anticipated)	January 2027
Performance Period	January 2027– August 31, 2027

Purpose

This grant opportunity is designed for nonprofit organizations to address critical infrastructure equipment and technology needs as it relates to building security and the safety of attendees and staff.

Our nonprofit organizations face extraordinary new challenges working to develop safe and secure environments. This Administration understands it is imperative that the Commonwealth continue to help these organizations acquire and install technology, equipment, and other resources to further safeguard and protect them from acts of violence. Although it is impossible to prevent or stop every potential incident, we can do more to address acts of violence by providing the financial resources needed to better secure a nonprofit's premise(s) and building(s) and improve the response if such incidents occur.

For the purpose of this competitive grant opportunity, priority will be given applications demonstrating greatest need and cost-effective solutions to address their building safety and security shortfalls to enhance the safety of all in the event of an incident. Applicants should prove they are at high risk for a terrorist attack or hate crime through supporting documentation, including details of any previous documented threats, vandalism and/or instances where an attack or crime took place. **This opportunity is very competitive.** It is extremely important that applicants **prove need** by detailing specific incidences of bias-motivated vandalism, threats or incidents specific to an organization that could be the target of a terrorist attack. Please don't assume that the reviewers understand your organization's mission or risk factors.

Funding Allocation and Maximum Award Amounts

Maximum award amount is **\$75,000/application**. OGR reserves the right to make partial awards based upon number of quality proposals received, reviewer feedback, and inclusion of excessive or unallowable costs in a proposal budget.

Allowable Goods and Technology Related Costs

Allowable costs are focused on security enhancements. Funding can be used for the acquisition and installation of security equipment/goods on real property (including buildings) owned or leased by the nonprofit organization, specifically to prevent or protect against the risk of a terrorist attack or hate crime.

This equipment is **limited to the following categories:**

- Physical Security Enhancement (Equipment/Goods)
- Inspection and Screening System

Types of purchases eligible for funding include but are not limited to:

- Exterior door and door locks (with single secure entry points)
- Surveillance video cameras
- Site alarms
- Internal public address system
- Tourniquets or other emergency first aid equipment
- Security fencing and barriers
- Lighting
- Access control systems

Applicants must provide OGR with as much detail as possible to include cost estimate, make, model, and quantity of equipment/goods to be purchased, as well as location where the equipment will be installed.

Unallowable Costs

These grant funds may **NOT** be used for any of the following:

- Employee salary or benefits
- Training and exercises (unless directly related to operation of equipment purchased from a vendor)
- Grant writers
- Law enforcement equipment such as standard firearms or ammunition, license plate readers, drones and the like
- Major construction, office furniture, or other similar purchases
- Vehicles

Fund Disbursement

Funds will be disbursed after contracting is complete. Details about the disbursement process will be addressed in greater detail after award notifications are made. OGR reserves the right to amend this process if necessary.

Subgrantee Requirements

Subrecipients must abide by the grant requirements below as well as all OGR Subrecipient Grant Conditions which will be provided at the time of contracting.

1. Grants Management

- Submission of satisfactory and timely quarterly progress reports and quarterly financial reports with all required back-up documentation.
- Cooperation during OGR monitoring endeavors, including site visits and desk reviews.
- Supplanting of funds is strictly prohibited. Funds for programs and services provided through this grant are intended to supplement, not supplant, other state or local funding sources.
- All costs paid with grant funds must be direct and specific to the execution of the funded program.

2. Procurement

- Subrecipients choosing to further subgrant all or any part of the award to an implementing agency or an independent contractor, shall enter into a written contract or memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the implementing agency or independent contractor. At a minimum, this written contract or MOU shall include the provisions of the OGR standard subgrant conditions and must explicitly outline the expected deliverables, timeframes/hours, and rates. A copy of the contract or MOU must be submitted to OGR once an award is made.
- Procurement of services, equipment, and supplies must follow M.G.L. Ch. 30B for local units of government and non-profit entities and Operational Services Division (OSD) Purchasing Guide for state agencies.

3. Other Requirements

- In addition to the requirements set forth above, subrecipients will be required to agree to and abide by all state rules, regulations, and conditions pertaining to the receipt, administration, and management of grant funding.
- OGR subgrant conditions must be signed and dated at the time an award is made.

4. Equipment and Technology

- Equipment obtained with grant funds shall be used and managed to ensure that the equipment is used for safety and security purposes.
- A subrecipient shall use and manage equipment in accordance with their own procedures as long as the equipment is used for safety and security purposes.
- Subrecipients are responsible for replacing or repairing property that is willfully or negligently lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed. Any loss, damage, or theft of the property must be investigated, fully documented, and made part of the official project records. A copy of the police report must be forwarded to OGR.

5. Reporting Alleged Waste, Fraud, and Abuse

- It is the responsibility of the subrecipient to report alleged Fraud, Waste, or Abuse including any alleged violations, serious irregularities, sensitive issues or overt or covert acts involving the use of public funds in a manner not consistent with statutes, related laws and regulations, appropriate guidelines or purposes of the grant. Reports may be made to the Offices of the Massachusetts Inspector General or State Auditor.

Office of the Inspector General
John W. McCormack State Office Bldg.
One Ashburton Pl, Room 1311
Boston, MA 02108
1 800-322-1323
MA_OIG@maoig.net

Office of the State Auditor
Massachusetts State House, Room 230
Boston, MA 02133
617-727-2075
Auditor@SAO.state.ma.us

Application Instructions

To provide OGR the best opportunity to fairly evaluate all requests for funding, applicants are strongly encouraged to be clear and concise in their proposals. Applicants should thoroughly provide supporting information proving they are specifically at high risk for a terrorist attack or hate crime, such as detailing previous instances about an attack or hate crime that took place.

The [online application](#) must be completed as outlined in the section below. Submission of all attachments will be completed through the linked online Cognito application.

Required Sections

Applicant Information

- **Contact Information:** Provide applicant identification and legal/tax information, and contact information for the head of the organization, grant contact, and fiscal contract manager.
- **Program Summary:** Provide a brief summary of the proposal outlined in this application (1,250-character limit).
- **Previous Funding Information:** Provide information about previous state or federal nonprofit security funding.

Needs Assessment (2-page limit/approximately 4,000 characters)

At a minimum, the needs assessment should address the following:

- Provide a description of the nonprofit organization applying for/benefiting from this application. Include mission, size, location, number of members, etc.

- Is this nonprofit, at the address where funds are being requested for, of historical significance (historical building/landmark) that would make this site a potential target of a terrorist attack or hate crime? If so, explain why.
- Describe the factors that make your organization susceptible to destruction, incapacitation, or exploitation by a hate crime or terrorist attack.
- Describe in detail the nonprofit organization's current unmet safety and security needs.
 - Has the nonprofit, at the address where funds are being requested for, experienced a hate crime or terrorist attack? If yes, provide a thorough description of the incident(s).
 - Include a detailed description of each incident, including the date(s), location(s), individuals or groups involved (if known), whether law enforcement was involved, whether an investigation was conducted or arrests were made, and the outcome of any related proceedings.
 - Describe how the nonprofit is at risk of being targeted, provide an explanation that outlines the key factors contributing to this vulnerability.
 - Include relevant statistical and/or anecdotal evidence whenever possible, such as related incidents associated with hate crime acts or terrorist organizations (threats, graffiti, and other vandalism, bias-motivated acts or related issues in the surrounding community, etc.).
 - Include and describe any relevant incidents involving another organization in close proximity to your location.
- Describe the sources or methods used for assessing the safety/security problem. OGR strongly recommends nonprofits receive a **vulnerability or risk assessment** by an outside independent security professional. If the nonprofit has received an assessment, provide a summary of the findings and upload a copy of the assessment in the online application. Submitting a previously conducted independent assessment will earn 5 points within the needs assessment review.
- Explain why such safety and security needs have not been previously met to justify that grant funds are needed. For example, financial hardship, lack of institutional approval, etc.
- Please describe the organization's previous or existing roles in responding to or recovering from a hate crime or terrorist incident or state/federally declared emergency. If not applicable, please state this.
- Describe the negative effect, potential consequences, or impact against the applicant organization as a result of not having the items needed. Include any other relevant information that you can provide to prove need for these funds.

Project Description (2-page limit/approximately 4,000 characters)

Applicants must thoroughly describe within the [online application](#) the goods to be purchased and their expected benefit. The following should be addressed when completing this section:

- Clearly describe the proposed physical security enhancement activity/project to be implemented if funded. Describe all equipment and technology to be purchased or upgraded. Include the purpose; how the goods will be used; individual or entity responsible for the upkeep, monitoring, and maintaining of such goods, etc.

- Do not assume that the reviewer is familiar with the equipment or technology item being requested or understands how it will enhance building security and improve climate.
- Discuss how such purchase(s) directly correlate with and address the needs raised in the needs assessment.
- Describe the expected outcome for the nonprofit and community as a result of receiving a grant award.
- Briefly describe your organization's procurement rules/regulations when purchasing goods. If already known, include information on the vendor that will be utilized for the project and describe the process that was used to identify the vendor/contractor. All goods secured under this award must be purchased, received, and installed on or before August 31, 2027.
- If awarded, describe how you will assess whether this award has improved overall security.
- Describe any emergency response plan that your organization has in place or has been developing.
- Include any other information that is important and may be relevant for reviewers when evaluating the request for funding. This should include a description of policies and practices that the applicant has in place or is implementing in order to identify potential threats and create or enhance a safe and supportive climate intended to reduce instances of violence.

Helpful Hint: This will be a very competitive process. The peer reviewers will prioritize funding for applicants that clearly explain, justify, and prove real need for all items requested. Nonprofits may have great need but often fail to provide specific data and sufficient detail proving to the reviewers that need exists on behalf of the entity requesting the award.

Implementation Plan, Timeline and Person Responsible (1-page limit/approximately 2,000 characters)

Please discuss your execution plan for this award. This should include how you will ensure the effective implementation and oversight of the project, methods of procurement of any equipment and/or technology, a timeline with key activities and milestones, and identification of key personnel, partnerships or stakeholders who will play a role in the implementation of this award. Please make sure that your request can be reasonably fulfilled within the performance period of this grant, which will end on August 31, 2027. **These are state funds and considered “use or lose” if services are not rendered within the grant period of performance.**

Complete the Application Grid provided in [online application](#) by identifying the necessary steps to be implemented over the project period for proposed equipment purchases. Include the following:

- A brief summary of the execution plan, including how you will ensure effective implementation and oversight of the project and identification of key partnerships or stakeholders and their role in the implementation of the award.
- List of major tasks/activities to be conducted, including a bidding process for contracts and/or equipment purchases.

- Anticipated date for receipt of goods and installation services, and individual responsible for conducting/overseeing the stated task/activity.

Budget Narrative and Budget Excel Worksheet

The **Budget Narrative** should outline the budget requested and itemize the expenses by cost category as described in this application. For each cost category that has an associated funding request in the Budget Excel Worksheet (**Attachment A**), please provide an overall description and justification of that cost category. The budget category narratives should describe what the budget entails, why the items in that category are needed, and how the budgeted amount was determined.

Applicants may submit a **budget** for up to eight (8) months of funding. All goods requested must be procured, received and, if necessary, installed within the eight-month project period in order to be considered for funding.

Applicants must also complete a **Budget Excel Worksheet** (refer to **Attachment A**). Please be sure to complete both Excel tabs – the Summary sheet and Detail worksheet – and upload with your application. Attachment A must be submitted as an Excel document.

Allowable Budget Cost Categories for CNSGP Applicants

- Contract/Consultant (to install or train on how to use items purchased)
- Equipment and Technology (goods purchased)
- Other (identify any additional costs that directly correlate to goods purchased)

Definitions of each budget cost category are provided.

Allowable Budget Cost Categories	Definitions and Documentation Requirements
Consultants/ Contract Costs	Consultant or Contractor fees associated with the equipment/technology purchased. For example, a contractor might be hired by the organization to install the technology purchased through this grant or train the staff on how to use it.
Equipment/Technology Costs	Tangible, non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year. Cost based on classification of equipment.
Other Costs	Supplies directly related to the equipment purchased. For example, batteries for communication device, etc.

Submission Process and Deadline

Please review the following instructions carefully. We are only requiring an electronic submission of the Application, Budget and other documents.

Please Note: The application and attachments must be submitted electronically via the online application form. Emailed submissions **will NOT be accepted**.

This AGF and all other required documents can be found on the [CNSGP page](#) of our website.

Electronic Submission

Submit your [online application](#) form no later than **Friday, November 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.** **This is a competitive process, and the system will not accept applications received after 4:00 p.m.** The online application must be completed and submitted with the following required attachments uploaded:

- Attachment A: Budget Excel Workbook (in Excel format, not PDF) uploaded to online application form.

Review Process and Scoring

This is a competitive grant and will be subject to a peer review process. OGR will separate applications to distinguish between previously funded and nonfunded applicants. **After prioritizing funding for first time awardees that score 80 or higher, if additional funds remain, then the highest ranking previously funded awardees will be considered for funding until all funds are awarded.**

All eligible applications will be reviewed and scored by three peer reviewers consisting of two internal and one external reviewer. Scores will be based on the following criteria:

- Clear and adequate responses in the **Application Information** section (**5 points**).
- A thorough explanation of **need**, including relevant local data to demonstrate need and correlation to the requested equipment/items to be purchased that will address the stated need (**35 points**).
- A **project description** that clearly describes the items to be purchased, types of items requested, and benefits to the nonprofit and community seeking funding (**30 points**).
- An **implementation plan and timeline** that is feasible and ensures all goods will be received and paid for within the anticipated grant period (**10 points**).
- A detailed, reasonable, and complete **budget** (**20 points**).

Notification of Awards

All funding decisions are at the discretion of the Executive Director of OGR. It is anticipated that the CNSGP awards will be announced in January 2027.

In addition to reviewer feedback and scoring, other factors such as achieving geographic diversity, strategic priorities, past performance, previous awards, and available funding will be taken into consideration by OGR when making funding decisions. **To reiterate, first time awardees who have never received a state funded CNSGP, MNSGP, or federally funded NSGP (including NSS) award, will be priority for this competitive process.** If an organization has multiple locations, each location is considered a separate applicant. If the organization has received grant funding for one location and is now requesting funds for a second location that has not received grant funding, the second location would be considered a first-time awardee.

OGR reserves the right to award additional proposals recommended for funding by the peer

reviewers if additional funds become available after the initial awards are made.

Proposal Check List
Application Elements and Required Attachments:

- ☐ Submitted [online application](#) form. Please notify OGR immediately if applicant is unable to utilize the online application.
- ☐ Budget Excel Worksheet (**Attachment A**) (both **Summary and Detail Sheets** must be completed and the document uploaded to the online application in excel format.)

A list of FAQ's will be made available after the Technical Assistance webinar and can be found on the [CNSGP page](#) of our website. Questions about the application process will not be answered after Friday November 6, 2026, at 4pm.

If you have any questions regarding this application, please email Program Coordinator Myesha Auguste at myesha.m.auguste@mass.gov