



Office of Grants and Research
Nonprofit Security Grant Program – National Security Supplemental
Questions and Answers

<u>QUESTION</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Are the cities limited to the ones listed (i.e, not Malden, Medford, etc)	<i>The cities listed are the only ones included in the "Urban Areas" classification outlined by FEMA. If you are not one of the cities included in that list, you should apply under the "State" funding stream.</i>
Is the Vulnerability Assessment a form or something we create?	<i>A vulnerability assessment is used to identify and validate physical security deficiencies of your organization/facility and is the foundation of an NSGP-NSS application. Vulnerability assessments can be provided in the form of a Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Self-Assessment (Facility Security Self-Assessment CISA), a state or local law enforcement assessment, an outside contractor's assessment, or other valid method of assessment.</i>
If submitting a proposal for the same institution that has multiple locations, is it ok that the locations have the same EIN and name (and only the addresses are different)?	<i>Yes. When providing the mission statements, please be sure to clearly differentiate the locations. Common risks are ok but just be sure to individualize applications.</i>
For schools that don't neatly fit into the pull-down list of "organization function" options on the application form, should we select "other" and then write in what kind of school we are? For example, Middle School isn't an option and we are a school that is preschool though Middle School. So should I just type that in as "other"?	<i>"Other type of educational institution"</i>

<u>QUESTION</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Can a nonprofit 501c3 security group apply (and if yes, could they apply alone or as the lead of a consortium)?	<i>Eligibility is limited to nonprofit organizations (as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) at high risk of terrorist attacks.</i>
What is considered construction or renovation, and how does one go about getting FEMA approval for it?	<i>Please contact Program Manager Sarah Malloy with more detail to discuss possible FEMA approval.</i>
Can/should we add to the official mission statement some basic info about the organization? For example, if the OFFICIAL mission statement is something simple like "to give kids a great education and values" -can we add more information about what sort of org this is?	<i>Write your mission statement on official letterhead, if available, specifying the "who, what and why" of your organization.</i>
If an institution is approved for funding, does that take those funds away from another who may have greater need?	<i>This is a competitive grant and not solely based on financial need.</i>
Are consortiums funded out of the \$2M target allocation for MA? Are consortiums competing nationally or just within the state? Is there a percentage of the total grant that the state can award to consortiums?	<i>Consortia funding is separate from the target allocation. Applications are not ranked against other states. Total funding for consortium applications is limited to 25% of the total NSGP-NSS award allocation.</i>
If we are applying for multiple sites, should we complete 2 applications?	<i>Yes</i>
If you end up receiving only a part of the grant you request, are you still required to do the whole project?	<i>You would use funds on the approved aspects of the project. It is not a requirement to complete any work beyond what is funded.</i>

<u>QUESTION</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
What are the word/character limits to the parts of the IJ form?	<i>There is no running count/limit provided from the FEMA IJ form but seems there are sections that are limited to 3-4 sentences.</i>
Would replacing existing doors with hardened doors be considered equipment or maintenance?	<i>You could elect to use either category as some equipment does qualify as maintenance as described.</i>
For multiple sites do we use one or separate applications and do we use a single or multiple worksheets?	<i>You can apply for sites either individually or as a group in a consortium.</i>
The window for doing cost estimates is short. What happens if final numbers are different from the application?	<i>Please provide your best estimate.</i>
So are any indirect costs allowed if we DO NOT have an agreement in place with the Commonwealth?	<i>Yes. It is a 15% de minimus rate.</i>
IF we have a Parish Center, Church and Rectory on our grounds is that considered one entity?	<i>If they have the same address then yes.</i>
Will the state reimburse the contractor directly, or does the location pay the vendor and get reimbursed from the state. If so, how long is the reimbursement process?	<i>This is a quarterly reimbursement grant. Each quarter the organization will submit a reimbursement request for costs incurred during that reporting period. OGR will review the reimbursement request and if all documentation is provided and completed accurately, OGR will then reimburse your organization. Usually costs are reimbursed within 28 days of receipt of request.</i>
I thought one application can include an organization which has up to three separate physical location with different addresses. Am I wrong?	<i>One site per application for up to 3 applications per funding stream.</i>

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Please confirm that non-profits do not need to include an UEI number	<i>They need to at least have applied for a UEI# if they are applying individually.</i>
Will copies of this presentation to be sent us for reference? Also, what is the total amount of funding available for this program? Is there a priority given to funding urban versus suburban areas?	<i>The presentation will be shared and posted to our website. Please see AGF for funding availability including urban area funding.</i>
Is there a definition of "terrorist or other extreme attacks"? Can that include domestic groups (e.g., a white supremacy group)?	<i>Yes that would be included. Please reference the AGF and FEMA NOFO for further definitions.</i>
Is it the case that a single site cannot request more than \$200,000? The reason I ask is that we seek to develop cybersecurity measures that affect more than one site, but the "guts" of the project would be sited at the corporate headquarters. Does that count as one site, or multiple sites as it affects more than one agency location?	<i>\$200,000 limit per site and all projects must be site specific.</i>
2. Can all of our site applications address cybersecurity, or is it the expectation that nonprofits will apply for varied security projects (i.e., physical security)?	<i>Types of projects proposed is up to the organization there is no set expectation for how much involves cybersecurity.</i>
3. Can you please explain how training would be an eligible project? There is contradictory information in the nofo about whether staff training is an eligible cost.	<i>Please see the AGF and NOFO for information regarding training allowability. Contact Sarah Malloy with any specific concerns.</i>
Sarah mentioned that the mission statement ought to outline our project. Our org mission statement is broad and does not address the	<i>The project should be outlined in the IJ while the mission statement describes the "who, what, why" of the organization.</i>

<u>QUESTION</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
safety application. Should I add it to the 1-page document? Or do you want just the stated mission for our org?	
For an organization that is housed within another organization's physical building, can they apply separately or would they need to coordinate with the "host" org?	<i>If the organization does not own or lease the site at the time of application, they would need to coordinate with the host.</i>
Is this grant only available to 501C3 or are they available to LLCs as well	<i>This grant is for 501c3 organizations only.</i>
Sorry if answered... came in late... can we apply for safety improvements to doors that are also fire doors that we are being directed to update?	Yes
I went on SAM.gov and am unable to login to find our UEI number. Is there someone at the OGR who can help me?	<i>Please contact SAM.gov Customer Service</i>
Is there somewhere to submit/upload letters of support (police department, etc.)?	<i>No. These will not be accepted for this application. If possible, try and incorporate these details into your application.</i>
We applied for CNSGP in October 2024. We have not yet heard about whether we were awarded that grant. Are we still able to apply for this grant?	Yes
Are we considered eligible even if we haven't undergone an attack or threat of attack? We do need to upgrade our security but haven't luckily had an attack or threat of attack.	<i>Yes, you are still eligible. Please be clear and detailed about potential risks in your application.</i>

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Are software costs or basic online support from a vendor allowable under maintenance and sustainment?	<i>Software costs are included in the AEL lines for equipment. Please review pages 48-53 of the NOFO for specific AEL#s as they apply to your request.</i>
Is labor for installing hardware equipment allowable under this grant?	Yes
If we applied for a state grant in November for similar security funding, can we apply for this one also for other items?	Yes
Hindu temples are under threats of vandalism and other attacks; would be qualify?	Yes
Can you discuss your definition of an extremist group, especially as it relates to hackers and cyber attacks?	<i>All definitions can be found in the AGF, NOFO, and FEMA quick start guide: https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/nonprofit-security/fy-24-subapplicant-quick-start-guide</i>
Are we able to apply for window safety film including ballistic prevention?	<i>Blast/shock/impact resistant window film/wrap/velums are allowable as included in the NOFO AEL</i>
Is there a searchable database of previous awardees?	No
Would a Parish and Cemetery (two different addresses be considered a consortium?)	<i>It is up to the applicant to choose to apply as a consortium or submit 2 separate applications. Please note you cannot apply as consortium and individual for the same sites.</i>
From whom does one contract for a risk assessment?	<i>The risk assessment is a form to be completed by the applicant and can be found on the program website.</i>
Is there a particular "save as"	<i>The "Save As" feature may look different depending what computer you have.</i>
So, the self assessment is included in the uploaded documentation?	Yes

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So I don't forget my question - sites in a funding stream would that include 2 sites such as the church and the rectory/parish offices?	<i>Sites are based on address/location. If the church and offices are at the same address, it is one site.</i>
What is a UEI #?	<i>A UEI# is a Unique Entity Identification number. You can register for a UEI# at SAM.gov</i>
Is application done through OGR site or through Mass.gov?	<i>The OGR site is located in Mass.gov and can be accessed here: www.mass.gov/info-details/nonprofit-security-grant-program-national-security-supplemental</i>
Could you take more about the personnel eligibility and criteria? For example, it's not on the budget dropdown in the IJ or OGR document as an option.	<i>The personnel is included in the M&A or Planning categories.</i>
Could you talk more about the allowable uses for software technology for active shooter/counter-terrorism safety measures such as cctv, access control (card readers) etc under this grant funding.	<i>Various types of equipment are allowable that could help prevent or minimize the loss of life in the event of an active shooter situation. Such as outfitting doors with key card access to prevent unknown individuals from accessing your organization or certain rooms within the organization, install cameras for staff to monitor the outside and inside premise, etc.</i>
Just to clarify, the applicant must be a potential target for a physical safety threat related to terrorism?	<i>The applicant should express the risk/vulnerability/threat of a potential attack against the organization. Please review AGF for more details.</i>
Are MA charitable organizations such as churches which are not 501c3 certified but hold a Certificate of Exemption eligible to apply?	<i>Yes</i>
Is there any penalty for organizations that have received prior NSGP funds in a different fiscal year?	<i>No. If you have previously received NSGP funding you will still be considered under this opportunity.</i>

<u>QUESTION</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
No one is responding to schedule the vulnerability assessment in time before the deadline. How can we still apply?	<i>If you are having trouble with a vendor please use the CISA link on the resources slide.</i>
When applying for separate NSGP funds for multiple sites, do the sites have to be located in separate communities, as was the case for the CNSGP?	<i>No, they do not. As long as they have their own addresses/locations.</i>
According to FEMA standards, would we classify a drive-by shooting as a "man-made disaster (non-terrorist)" on the Investment Justification form?	<i>The intent behind the act of the shooting is what needs to be identified. Was this a targeted attack?</i>
How strict are the Authorized Equipment List classifications? Will classifying a budget item as the incorrect AEL number, even if the item is technically allowed, get a grant applicant denied?	<i>Pages 48-53 of the FEMA NOFO describe the classifications for the AEL numbers.</i>
If Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation review is inapplicable, should grant applicants leave the start/end dates for that step blank on the milestone table, in the Investment Justification form?	<i>Yes.</i>
Of the listed functions grant applicants must choose from on the Investment Justification form, which best describes a youth-serving organization, such as a Boys & Girls Club or YM/WCA?	<i>Community Center</i>
Can you tell me where the signature page is?	<i>The signature page is located in the Application Materials section of OGR's NSGP-NSS program page.</i>
Would arson be considered a man made disaster?	<i>The intent behind the act of arson is what needs to be identified.</i>

<u>QUESTION</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
What's the limit for contract security? How should it be present on the budget workbook?	<i>There is no limit on contracted security.</i>
The Vulnerability Assessment downloaded as an Excel Spreadsheet. How to convert to .pdf for upload?	<i>In the upper left corner, click "File" and there should be an option to "Save as a PDF". Assessments are accepted in .pdf, .doc, .docx format</i>
Can signature be electronic?	<i>Please refer to the AGF for the types of allowable electronic signatures.</i>
Is Arlington considered Metro Boston? We are considered an urban school but are not part of your list of towns shown.	<i>No, the UASI Metro Boston area is Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop</i>
What percent of applications get approved?	<i>This is not a calculated measure as the application period is still open and this is a competitive grant.</i>
Are higher education insitutions considered non-profit organizations within the intent of this solicitation?	<i>The organization must be a 501c3 or exempt.</i>
Our property needs outdoor cameras and lights. Do we need to provide a list of equipment or just the total expense of the project? Any info would be helpful.	<i>Please see detailed instructions in the budget worksheet. The worksheet includes an approved equipment list that needs to be completed with the expenses.</i>
If you're a 501 c 3 that holds events at locations we do not own eligible to apply?	<i>You would need to own or lease the property.</i>
I heard you state landscaping is not a permitted expense for submission, but what if a vulnerability assessment specifically identifies thick landscaping of trees that prohibits clear lines of sight, and could harbor a bad actor, as requiring thinning out to increase safety.	<i>If brush and tree removal are noted in a vulnerability assessment as something that should be cleared from the property due to being a security risk (someone could hide behind the trees and not be seen making it hard for cameras or staff to see who is on the property, etc.) this would be an allowable cost.</i>

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Would this be considered landscaping and be disallowed?	
What category would windows come under? Equipment or something else?	<i>Equipment AEL# 14EX-00-BSIR</i>
I also have a question about the percent allowable for M and A, as well as planning, and/or indirect.	<i>Any personnel costs must fall within 5% of your total amount requested, including indirect costs.</i>