

Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Grant Program

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



CNSGP Webinar Q/A

Q: What constitutes a nonprofit location for grant purposes? For example, if the nonprofit has a campus with multiple buildings with different addresses for each building, would each building be considered a separate location?

A: Yes, if a campus has multiple buildings with a different address, then you would need to apply for each location separately.

Q: Can the person submitting the application be on all contact info or do I need someone other than me, the Director of Adv.?

A: No, you should list at least one other person for contact information.

Q: Can we purchase equipment and then use the grant to supplement our budget? If we are in high need and cannot wait until next year to update our equipment?

A: No, you cannot purchase equipment and then use the grant to supplement your budget, or you will not be able to be reimbursed through grant funds. The grant contract does not go into effect until the contract is signed, and reimbursement can only be reimbursed for equipment after the contract is signed.

Q: Is the same nonprofit able to apply for both the tech opportunity and the personnel opportunity? Or do they have to pick one?

A: Yes, the same nonprofit can apply for both grants simultaneously.

Q: With a CNSGP grant, if there was a need to trench (for additional lighting or outside cameras, for instance), what extra steps are needed before work can be done. Does an Environmental and Historic Preservation Screening Form need to be completed, as the NSGP awards require?

A: No- this is a state grant and is not subject to federal regulations.

Q: Do recipients of this grant need to agree to the new terms and conditions for all DHS financial assistance? For Ex: "By accepting the grant award, recipients are certifying that:

(i) They do not and will not during the term of this financial assistance award, operate any programs that advance or promote DEI."

A: These are state funds and not federal funds and are not subject to DHS rules.

Q: Will we be notified if funding is not awarded? If so, will we receive feedback about our application?

A: Yes, you will be notified if you are not awarded funding and upon request we can provide feedback.

Q: If our organization has not had a hate crime or terrorist threat but do have cause for concern, can we still build this case and is it still worth applying for?

A: Organizations who have experienced any prior incidents or hate crimes will receive priority. You should fill out the application to the best of your ability and try to strengthen your application in other areas. Such as a thorough description of the need for the equipment, project description and implementation plan sections.

This will be a competitive process, but it will not eliminate your application just because your organization hasn't experienced any hate crime incidents.

Q: We are a single gender school religious school located in the Commonwealth. Could you tell me the funding source with this grant that requires federal reporting for Title IX.

A: No federal reporting, this is a state grant.

Q: How much impact does it have on an application if the organization has received a prior equipment grant.

A: It does not have any impact if your organization has received equipment grant funding in the past.

Q: Is impact-protective window film eligible under these grants?

A: Yes, impact protective window film is eligible under the CNSGP.

Q: Could this be used for internal doors?

A: CNSGP can be used for internal doors.

Q: Will slides be shared with attendees?

A: Yes, slides will be shared with attendees.

Q: Should the applicant address be the district's address or the location that the grant will be used for?

A: The applicants' address can use the same address as the location receiving grant funds.

Q: I noticed in the NOFO that some sections of the application have word limits, while others do not. Would you be able to clarify the word limits for all sections?

A: The first section that will have a word limit on the applications is the Needs Assessment with a maximum length of 4,000 characters, which is about 2 pages double spaced. Please note that spaces and line breaks are included in the character count. The Project description section will also have a maximum length of 4,000 characters, which is about 2 pages double spaced. Please note that spaces and line breaks are included in the character count. The Implementation plan will have a maximum length is 2,000 characters or approximately 1 page double spaced. Please note that spaces and line breaks are included in the character count.

Q: For an organization who is responsible for an established Pedestrian Zone, can we apply for contracted security and/or security equipment for that outdoor area rather than in our office which is contiguous to the Pedestrian Zone.

A: No, we cannot provide funds for an area that you do not rent or space that the organization doesn't own.

Q: We have heard that DHS has put a non-DEI condition of grant applications. Is this correct and what does EOPSS suggest applicants address this in the application?

A: These are state funds and not federal funds and are not subject to DHS rules.

Q: Will organizations that have directly experienced a hate crime or threat get more review points than organizations that have not?

A: An organization will not lose points during the application review and scoring process for not having experienced incidents or hate crimes. However, if an organization has experienced incidents or hate crimes they will receive 5 points.

Q: Is this covering just the period of August - December 2026 for security personnel?

A: No, the CNSPGP covers January 2026 – September 30, 2026.

Q: Can you apply for this grant a second time if you have already received funds from this grant in the past?

A: Yes, even though you were previously awarded funding in the past it will not impact your eligibility for CNSGP and CNSPGP. On the application form you would just be prompted to give a description of how the previous funds previously benefitted your organization.

Q: What are the odds of getting an award if you received a previous award?

A: Although you were previously awarded funding in the past it will not impact on your eligibility for CNSGP and CNSPGP. On the application form you would just be prompted to give a description of how the previous funds previously benefitted your organization.

Q: What if we are buying the equipment through the contracted company and we just have a total equipment cost in the quote? Do we need to get it itemized from the contractor?

A: No, you do not need to get an itemized list, we suggest that you come up with your project and implementation plan and describe how the project will be fully funded.

Q: If my organization has 2 locations, I understand that a separate submission must be completed for each location. My question is: May EACH location (through their separate application) solicit up to \$60k? Or is the cap \$60k PER organization (such that if there are two locations, each one could submit a max request of, say, \$30k)?

A: Yes, each location may solicit up to \$60,000.00 per location.

Q: Are prevailing wages required?

A: Subgrant conditions state;

Employer Requirements. Contractors that are employers certify compliance with applicable state and federal employment laws and regulations, including but not limited to prevailing wage laws at M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 26-27D (public construction work); M.G.L. c. 149, § 27F (use of trucks, vehicles and other equipment to perform public works functions); [M.G.L. c. 149, § 27G](#) (moving office furniture and fixtures); [M.G.L. c. 149, § 27H](#) (cleaning state office buildings or buildings leased by the state); [M.G.L. c. 6C, § 44](#) (MassDOT relocation of utilities or utility facility); [M.G.L. c. 7, § 22](#) (contracts for meat products and clothing and apparel); [M.G.L. c. 71, § 7A](#) (transportation of students to public schools); Chapter 195 of the Acts of 2014 (MA Convention Center Authority security guard services); minimum wage and overtime law and regulations ([M.G.L. c. 151](#)) and 454 CMR 27.00; child labor laws (M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 56-105); all payment of wages, payroll and timekeeping records, earned sick time, meal breaks, domestic violence leave, temporary worker rights, domestic worker rights and anti-retaliation laws at M.G.L. c. 149 (Labor and Industries); [M.G.L. c. 151A](#) (unemployment insurance and contributions); [M.G.L. c. 152](#) (workers compensation and insurance); [M.G.L. c. 150A](#) (Labor Relations); [M.G.L. c. 153](#) (liability for injuries); 29 U.S.C. c. 8 (Federal Fair Labor Standards); 29 U.S.C. c. 28 (Federal Family and Medical Leave Act); M.G.L. c. 6, § 171A (applicant criminal record information); M.G.L. c. 149, § 105A (MA Equal Pay Act); and M.G.L. c. 175M (Paid Family Medical Leave Act).

Q: Does this Grant go through Federal Homeland Security at all and need to follow the same restrictions as the latest NSGP grants?

A: These are state funds and not federal funds and are not subject to DHS rules.

Q: Is any backup documentation needed - i.e. cost proposals from specific vendors? Do you need multiple cost proposals?

A: No, you do not need cost proposals from specific vendors or multiple cost proposals.

Q: In 2024, we were awarded funding under the Massachusetts Nonprofit Security Grant Program (MNSGP) from the Office of Grants and Research (OGR). Does that impact our eligibility to apply again?

A: No, even though you were awarded funding under the Massachusetts Nonprofit Security Grant Program (MNSGP) in the past it will not affect your eligibility for CNSGP and CNSPGP. On the application form you would just be prompted to give a description of how the previous funds previously benefited your organization.

Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Personnel Grant Program

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CNSPGP Webinar Q/A

Q: Can you elaborate on additional tasks? Will we get the slides sent to us? Is the security grant able to provide funding for a full-time onsite security guard or monitor or is it just for events?

A: The task and activity section is where you would list the activities that will be completed from your implementation plan, the anticipated completion date and who will be responsible for the activity's completion. There is also an area below the first three columns where you can add additional boxes if necessary for other tasks and activities. Yes, slides and a list of FAQs will be sent to everyone who registered for the webinar. Yes, the CNSPGP can provide funding for full time onsite security guard or monitor and does not have to be just for events.

Q: Is the same nonprofit able to apply for both the tech opportunity and the personnel opportunity? Or do they have to pick one?

Yes, the same nonprofit can apply for both grants simultaneously.

Q: Do you require a letter of support from our local police department for either of the applications?

A: Yes, you only require a letter of support from your local police department for the CNSPGP application but are more than welcome to provide a letter of support for CNSGP application as well.

Q: Does this pass-through federal funding? Are there any restrictions on types of agencies?

A: These are state funds and not federal funds and are not subject to DHS rules.

Q: Is there a percentage of the budget that can be used for administrative costs?

A: Unfortunately, no applicants are not allowed to include an allocation for administrative costs in their budget proposal.

Q: Both grants' funding is advanced, not reimbursed, correct?

A: Yes, both grants' funding is advanced.

Q: For those of us who applied for the supplemental grant, will we hear if we have received that award before we have to submit this new grant application? My security upgrades build on each other. I have been told that I cannot include items that are in the supplemental grant if it was funded. But I don't know if it was funded and those items need to happen before the next layer of security upgrades can take place. So how do I know what to include in the current grant application?

A: All NSS applicants have been notified of award or rejection.

Q: What "additional materials" are recommended?

A: No additional materials are recommended, but you have the opportunity to include. This may be a security assessment, quote, etc.

Q: Are ballistic vests an allowable cost, or are they considered "law enforcement equipment"?

A: No ballistic vests are not considered an allowable expense and would be considered law enforcement equipment.

Q: Can you please speak to the timing of award announcements for previously submitted FFY2024 Nonprofit Security Grant Program National Security Supplemental applications?

A: Previously submitted FFY2024 Nonprofit Security Grant Program National Security Supplemental applications have already been awarded. As far as results of those submissions are concerned I do not have that information at this time, my apologies.

Q: I understand that the CNSPGP applications need to have a letter of support from the local police chief. Is there a similar requirement for the CNSGP? For the CNSPGP, can you please explain if security consultants are an allowable cost? Or is it only hourly paid security guards?

A: No, CNSGP applications do not require a letter of support from the local police chief. No security consultant is not an allowable cost; it is only for hourly paid security guards.

Q: For the CNSPGP, can you please explain the reimbursement process a bit more? For example, if we have \$80k of security personnel costs over the 9-month performance period, we would submit an application for \$40k and a \$40k match. If we are awarded the grant: if we need to pay the guards \$10k monthly, we'd do that, and then once we get to the (quarterly?) reporting period, would we then show the costs paid over 4 months, and the grant would reimburse half of it? Thus, in summary, our organization would have paid out \$80k and would get reimbursed for \$40k. Is that correct?

A: Once awarded the CNSPGP funds then the funding is advanced, and it would be a dollar-for-dollar match. Yes, if you submit an application for 40,000 of Security Personnel costs and under this grant funding OGR provides 40,000.00 in matching funds. Your implementation plan and budget would need to reflect the match.

However, OGR reserves the right to partially fund a project. For the quarterly reports you would need to send documentation related to the matching funds to provide assurance that the funds were spent on security personnel.

Q: Does labor cost need to be listed separately from the equipment costs? If we add surveillance cameras that charge an annual licensing fee, should the licensing fee be listed as 'contract' on the budget spreadsheet, or can it be rolled into the equipment since we can't purchase the equipment without the annual license?

A: Associated costs should be included in the relevant cost category. For example, fees associated with equipment/installation should be grouped under equipment. Please note licenses/subscriptions cannot exceed the period of performance (ex. 5-year subscription).