

Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program?

The Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) is a state grant program established under Maine LD 2107 to help nonprofit organizations improve security at facilities that may be at risk of hate crimes or terror attacks.

The program is intended to support physical security enhancements and preparedness measures that protect nonprofit organizations, their staff, volunteers, and visitors.

The program is administered by the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

2. What is LD 2107?

LD 2107, “An Act to Establish the Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program,” was enacted into Maine law in April 2026.

The law formally created a state-funded nonprofit security grant program to assist qualifying nonprofit organizations with improving security and reducing vulnerability to targeted violence, hate crimes, and terror attacks.

3. Who is eligible to apply?

A. Nonprofit organizations eligible as sub-applicants 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. *This includes entities designated as “private” (e.g., private institutions of higher learning), as private colleges and universities can also be designated as 501c3 entities.*

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 recognition of exemption. For organizations that the IRS requires to apply for and receive a recognition of exemption under section 501(c)(3), they will upload proof as part of the application.

Refer to links below for additional information:

- [Exemption Requirements - 501\(c\)\(3\) Organizations | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)
- [Publication 557 \(01/2022\), Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)
- [Charities and Nonprofits | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)

B. Able to demonstrate, through the application, that the organization is at high risk of a terrorist or other extremist attack.

4. What types of organizations may apply?

Eligible nonprofit organizations may include, but are not limited to:

- Houses of worship;
- Faith-based organizations;
- Community centers;
- Cultural organizations;
- Educational nonprofits;
- Advocacy organizations;
- Social service organizations; and
- Other nonprofit entities serving communities that may be targeted.

Eligibility does not guarantee funding.

5. What types of threats does this program address?

The program is intended to help organizations protect against:

- Hate crimes;
- Targeted violence;
- Terror attacks;
- Extremist threats; and
- Other acts intended to intimidate, coerce, or harm individuals based on protected characteristics.

6. What is considered a “hate crime” under the law?

Under LD 2107, a hate crime is a crime in which the victim or property was targeted because of:

- Race;
- Color;
- Religion;
- Sex;
- Ancestry;
- National origin;
- Physical or mental disability;
- Sexual orientation;
- Gender identity; or
- Homelessness.

7. What types of projects may be funded?

Allowable projects may include physical security enhancements and other approved preparedness activities, such as:

- Security cameras and video surveillance systems
- Access control systems
- Alarm systems
- Exterior lighting
- Reinforced doors or windows

- Bollards and barriers
- Security fencing and gates
- Emergency communications equipment
- Security planning
- Contracted security personnel

All projects must directly support security and risk reduction.

8. What costs are not allowed?

Examples of unallowable costs may include:

- General facility maintenance
- Routine operational expenses
- Activities unrelated to security
- Supplanting existing funding obligations
- Entertainment expenses
- Projects not tied to a documented security need

Additional restrictions may apply through program guidance or the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

9. Is a risk or vulnerability assessment required?

Yes. Applicants should expect to provide a vulnerability or risk assessment identifying security gaps, threats, and vulnerabilities associated with the facility.

Examples may include:

- A CISA self-assessment;
- Local law enforcement assessments;
- Third-party security assessments; or
- Other documented security evaluations.

The assessment should support the need for the requested project.

10. Will organizations need a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)?

Applicants are not required to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through SAM.gov in order to apply for the grant.

Organizations must have an active UEI at the time of award acceptance.

11. Is this program competitive?

Yes. Funding is limited and applications are evaluated competitively.

Submitting an application does not guarantee funding.

Projects are typically evaluated based on:

- Demonstrated risk;
- Quality of the investment justification;
- Alignment with program priorities;

- Project feasibility;
- Security impact; and
- Completeness of the application.

12. What is an Investment Justification?

An Investment Justification (IJ) is the written narrative submitted with the application explaining:

- The organization's risk;
- Existing vulnerabilities;
- The proposed project;
- How the project will reduce risk; and
- Why funding is needed.

A strong Investment Justification is critical to the application process.

13. Will organizations be required to provide a match?

Currently there is no match for this grant.

14. Can multiple facilities be included in one application?

Potentially. However, each facility may require:

- Its own vulnerability assessment;
- Separate risk information; and
- Distinct project details.

15. Can organizations apply for both state and federal nonprofit security grants?

Yes, if permitted by program guidance.

However, organizations cannot receive duplicate funding for the same project or cost.

Applicants must disclose other funding sources and comply with all grant requirements.

16. What documentation may be required?

Applicants *may* be required to submit:

- Proof of nonprofit status;
- Mission statement;
- Vulnerability or risk assessment;
- Investment Justification;
- Budget documentation;
- Vendor forms;
- EIN documentation; and
- Additional supporting materials.

17. How are applications submitted?

Applications are submitted via email to the grants inbox. **The subject line MUST say “FY26-27 ME NSGP, (organization name).**

18. When will funding opportunities be announced?

Funding opportunities are announced when funding becomes available and program guidance is released.

Organizations should monitor MEMA communications and grant announcements for updates.

19. Can funded organizations request reimbursement?

Yes. This grant operates on a reimbursement basis.

Organizations are required to:

- Procure items in compliance with grant requirements;
- Maintain documentation and receipts;
- Submit reimbursement requests; and
- Retain records for audit purposes.

20. Are procurement rules required?

Yes. Organizations receiving grant funds must follow applicable procurement and financial management requirements.

This may include:

- Competitive procurement procedures;
- Cost reasonableness requirements;
- Conflict of interest standards; and
- Documentation retention requirements.

21. What happens if an organization does not comply with grant requirements?

Failure to comply with grant requirements may result in:

- Delayed reimbursements;
- Corrective actions;
- Loss of funding;
- Repayment of funds; or
- Audit findings.

Organizations should carefully review all award conditions and program guidance.

22. Where can organizations find additional information?

Additional information may be available through the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Nonprofit Security Grant Program page.

23. Who can organizations contact with questions?

Organizations should contact the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Homeland Security Grants team for program-specific questions, application guidance, and technical assistance at HSGRANTS.MAINE@MAINE.GOV

Disclaimer

This FAQ is intended for informational purposes only and does not replace official program guidance, state law, federal requirements, or grant award conditions. Applicants should always refer to the most current Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), program guidance, and applicable laws and regulations.