

Federal Cybersecurity Grant Programs

Recognizing the escalating threat of cyberattacks, the federal government has made cybersecurity grant funding a top priority. State and local governments, which manage much of the nation's critical infrastructure, are particularly at risk due to their limited resources. These grants are designed to enhance the cybersecurity capabilities of local communities, protecting vital sectors such as transportation, healthcare, and water systems. This funding is part of a comprehensive national strategy that includes defending critical infrastructure, disrupting cyber threats, and investing in future resilience.

The following information serves as a resource for organizations in Maine, outlining various federal grant programs and providing a high-level overview of the application process and eligibility information, making it easier for communities to secure the funding they need to enhance their cybersecurity infrastructure.

Program	Overview	Funding Eligibility	Application Timing	Additional Info
<u>State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)</u>	The SLCGP, administered by FEMA and CISA, provides funding to state, local, and territorial (SLT) governments to manage and reduce systemic cyber risk.	Eligible entities include state, local, territorial, and Tribal (SLTT) governments. In Maine, eligible entities include local governments and school districts.	The Maine Emergency Management Agency applies for this grant on the state's behalf. Eligible entities are contacted directly with opportunities to participate in services funded through this grant program.	The program aims to address cybersecurity risks and threats to information systems owned or operated by, or on behalf of, SLTT governments.
<u>Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)</u>	The HSGP supports state, local, tribal, and territorial governments in enhancing their ability to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to potential terrorist attacks.	State, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments, as well as nonprofit organizations receiving funds as subrecipients.	Varies yearly. FEMA awards funds to the state, which allocates them to Maine's County Emergency Management Agencies to administer locally.	The HSGP includes three interconnected grant programs: State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), and Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)
<u>Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)</u>	The NSGP provides funding support for target hardening and other physical security enhancements to nonprofit organizations at high risk of terrorist attack	Nonprofit organizations described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code	The application process requires a Vulnerability/Risk Assessment and is a competitive program.	The program integrates nonprofit preparedness activities with broader state and local preparedness efforts

Additional programs on next page.



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CyberAICorps® : Scholarship for Service (CyberAI SFS)	NSF renamed and restructured this 25-year-old program in 2026 to fold AI workforce development into the traditional cybersecurity pipeline. It still provides scholarships to students in exchange for post-graduation service in a government cyber role.	U.S. citizens or permanent residents pursuing a degree in a cybersecurity- or AI-related field. Recipients must work in a cyber role for a federal, state, local, or tribal government agency for a period equal to the scholarship's length.	NSF's CyberAICorps Scholarship for Service (CyberAI SFS) funds up to 25 projects annually across two tracks: an Innovation Track (up to \$500,000) and a Scholarship Track (up to \$2,500,000).	Authorized under both the original cybersecurity workforce statute (15 U.S.C. §7442) and the newer AI workforce authority under the CHIPS and Science Act framework (42 U.S.C. §18993).
Cybersecurity Education and Training Assistance Program (CETAP)	Equips K-12 teachers across the country with cybersecurity curricula, professional development, and education tools that focus on growing and educating the next generation of the cyber-literate workforce	CISA awarded a total of \$6.8 million in funding through CETAP to the non-profit, CYBER.ORG	Opt-in for this free resource is ongoing with no hard deadlines	The program embraces a focus on underserved schools in low socioeconomic regions, as the majority of all new teachers and attendees come from low-income, Title I schools
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	The BRIC grant makes funding available to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to mitigate risk to save lives and reduce disaster costs.	Local Governments, federally-recognized Tribal Governments, and State Agencies who have a FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation (LHMP). Please reach out to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer to complete eligibility check.	Varies annually. Sub-applicant must apply through MEMA via FEMAGO.	FEMA can fund projects with a cybersecurity subcomponent. Cost share is generally 75% federal / 25% non-federal.
EPA Cybersecurity Funding	The EPA provides grants to public water systems to improve resilience against natural hazards and cybersecurity threats. This includes funding for small, underserved, and disadvantaged systems, as well as a newer program supporting midsize and large systems.	Small, underserved, and disadvantaged public water systems; and, through a newer program, midsize and large public water systems serving 10,000+ people.	Funding is awarded on a competitive basis	EPA's Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program is now active. Awards range from roughly \$1.19M to \$2.38M; about \$9 million was awarded in its first round (August 2025).

If you're viewing this online, please click on each program name above to find out more information.

