

Fiscal Year 2021 Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)

1. What is the purpose of the FY 2021 NSGP?

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) is one of three grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) focus on enhancing the ability of state, local, tribal and territorial governments, as well as nonprofit organizations, to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks. These grant programs are part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by DHS to help strengthen the nation's communities against potential terrorist attacks.

2. What legislation authorized funding for the FY 2021 NSGP?

NSGP is authorized by the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2021* (Pub. L. No. 116-260) and Sections 2003 and 2004 of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002* (Pub. L. No. 107-296), as amended (6 U.S.C. §§ 604 and 605).

3. What is the difference between NSGP-UA and NSGP-S?

NSGP-Urban Area (NSGP-UA) provides funding for nonprofit organizations located within a FY 2021 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)-designated urban area.

NSGP-State (NSGP-S) provides funding for nonprofit organizations located outside of FY 2021 UASI-designated urban areas.

For a list of FY 2021 UASI-designated urban areas, see the FY 2021 NSGP NOFO.

4. How much funding is available under the FY 2021 NSGP?

The total amount of funds available under the FY 2021 NSGP is \$180 million:

- \$90 million NSGP-UA; and
- \$90 million for NSGP-S.

5. What are the changes in funding levels between FY 2020 and FY 2021?

The FY 2021 NSGP-UA is \$40 million more than FY 2020. The FY 2021 NSGP-S is \$50 million more than FY 2020.

6. Where is the FY 2021 NSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) located?

The FY 2021 NSGP NOFO is located online at www.fema.gov/grants as well as on www.grants.gov.



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7. How do I apply?

Eligible nonprofit organizations must apply to their State Administrative Agency (SAA) for NSGP funds. Nonprofits may not apply to FEMA directly. The [SAA](#) is the only entity eligible to apply to FEMA on behalf of eligible nonprofit organizations. Contact your [SAA](#) for information on how to apply.

8. Which NSGP program should I apply for?

If the physical address of the nonprofit organization for which you are applying is within a FY 2021 UASI-designated urban area, then you may apply to NSGP-UA.

If the physical address of the nonprofit organization for which you are applying is outside of a FY 2021 UASI-designated urban area, then you may apply to NSGP-S.

If you are unsure whether your nonprofit organization's physical address is located within or outside of a FY 2021 UASI-designated urban area, contact your [SAA](#).

You may not apply to both programs. Applications that are received for the wrong program will be deemed ineligible.

9. Am I an eligible nonprofit organization?

To be eligible for the FY 2021 NSGP, a nonprofit organization must:

- Meet the description under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) of 1986 and be exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such code;
- For NSGP-UA, be located within one of the FY 2021 UASI-designated urban areas; OR for NSGP-S, be located outside of the FY 2021 UASI-designated urban areas; and
- Be able to demonstrate, through the application, that the organization is at high risk of a terrorist attack.

10. What are ways a nonprofit organization can demonstrate that it has a high risk of a terrorist attack?

Ways an organization can substantiate that it is at high risk of a terrorist attack include:

- Describe any incidents that have occurred at the facility.
- Describe any threats (e.g., verbal threats, vandalism) made against the organization.
- Monitor current events with specific attention to incidents impacting organizations that have been targeted due to a similar mission, belief, or ideology.
- Contact organizations/agencies that can provide information on the current threat environment such as local law enforcement offices, local emergency management offices, Federal Bureau of Investigation Field Offices, or Regional Protective Security Advisors. To reach a Protective Security Advisor, email NICC@hq.dhs.gov.

11. For what kinds of security related activities can I apply?

Allowable costs include **contract security**, as well as planning, equipment, training, and exercises. Below are some examples of each:

- Planning – activities related to the development of plans such as:
 - Security Risk Management Plans;



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- Continuity of Operations Plans; and
- Response Plans.
- Equipment – [Authorized Equipment List](#) Sections 14 and 15 only; examples include:
 - Access control equipment;
 - Surveillance equipment;
 - Physical protective measures such as fences, blast-proof windows, and concrete barriers;
 - Notification and warning systems; and.
 - Radios and public address systems
- Training
 - Active Shooter training; and
 - Security training for employees, or members/congregation.
- Exercises
 - Response exercises

For a complete description on allowability, see the FY 2021 NSGP NOFO and the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#).

12. What is the maximum I can apply for?

For NSGP-UA, sub-applicants with one site may apply for up to \$150,000 for that site. Sub-applicants with multiple sites may apply for up to \$150,000 per site, for up to three sites, for a maximum of \$450,000 per sub-applicant. If a sub-applicant applies for projects at multiple sites, regardless of whether the projects are similar in nature, it must include an assessment of the vulnerability and risk unique to each site.

For NSGP-S, the SAA may determine an award cap for individual subawards. However, the cap may not exceed \$450,000 per sub-applicant, as follows: 1) sub-applicants with one site may apply for up to \$150,000 for that site; and 2) sub-applicants with multiple sites may apply for up to \$150,000 per site, for up to three sites, for a maximum of \$450,000 per sub-applicant. If a sub-applicant applies for projects at multiple sites, regardless of whether the projects are similar in nature, it must include an assessment of the vulnerability and risk unique to each site.

13. What do I need to submit to my SAA to apply for FY 2021 NSGP funds?

Each eligible nonprofit organization must submit the following to their SAA:

a. Vulnerability/Risk Assessment

A vulnerability/risk assessment specific to the location/facility for which the nonprofit organization is applying. Currently, there are no other FEMA specific requirements for the vulnerability assessment.

b. NSGP Investment Justification (IJ)

The IJ is the application form used to apply for NSGP. It must include the nonprofit organization's risks, vulnerabilities, and the proposed projects that are intended to address/mitigate the identified risks and vulnerabilities. Proposed projects must be for the locations that the nonprofit occupies at the time of application.



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c. Mission Statement

A Mission Statement and any mission implementing policies or practices that may elevate the organization's risk. The SAA will use the Mission Statement along with the information provided in the IJ to determine the central purpose of the organization and will validate the nonprofit's 'organization type' selected by the nonprofit organization on the IJ. The organization type may be one of the following: 1) Ideology-based/Spiritual/Religious; 2) Educational; 3) Medical; or 4) Other.

d. Supporting documentation related to actual incidents that have occurred at the location/facility, if applicable.

If applicable, nonprofit organizations may include any proof of actual incidents that have occurred at the location or facility; this includes items such as police reports or photographs (include a brief description of the items you are submitting in your IJ).

e. Any other SAA required documentation.

Contact your [SAA](#) to get information on any additional requirements.

14. What makes a strong IJ?

- Clearly identified risks, vulnerabilities, and consequences;
- Description of findings from a previously conducted vulnerability assessment;
- Details of any incident(s) including description, dates etc.;
- A brief description of any supporting documentation (such as police reports or photographs) that is submitted as part of the application, if applicable;
- Explanation of how the investments proposed will mitigate or address the vulnerabilities identified from a vulnerability assessment;
- Establish a clear linkage with investment(s) and core capabilities (See [National Preparedness Goal](#));
- Verify all proposed activities are allowable costs per the FY 2021 NSGP NOFO;
- Realistic milestones that consider the [Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation \(EHP\)](#) review process, if applicable; and
- Description of the project manager(s) level of experience.

15. Can I apply for multiple locations/facilities for the same organization?

Yes, you may apply for multiple locations of the same organization but for each location/facility that you apply for, you must:

- a) Submit a complete IJ;
- b) Have a vulnerability assessment specific to the location/facility that you are applying for; and
- c) Ensure that the total amount you are requesting for all locations/facilities does not exceed \$150,000 per site/\$450,000 per application, or the cap defined by the SAA for NSGP-S.

16. What is a period of performance and how long is it for NSGP?

The period of performance (POP) is the amount of time you have to complete your proposed projects. For NSGP, the POP is 36 months; this includes any EHP considerations required for the project, if applicable. For more information on the EHP process, contact your SAA, also see: [Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#), and [EHP Directive & Instruction](#).



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17. What is the application period and deadline?

The application period starts when the FY 2021 NSGP NOFO is released on February 25, 2021. *The application deadline for nonprofit organizations is determined by your [SAA](#); contact your [SAA](#) for details on the application deadline.*

18. How will my application be reviewed or evaluated?

FY 2021 NSGP applications will be scored by the SAA in coordination with its state, territory, and urban area partners, as applicable. The SAA will submit a prioritized list of IJs with all scores to FEMA. FEMA will review the highest SAA-scored applications. In the final scoring process, organizations that are at risk due to their ideology, beliefs or mission are prioritized; additionally, organizations that have never received NSGP funding are also prioritized.

Based on the review process described above, FEMA will then make recommendations for funding to the DHS Secretary. All final funding determinations will be made by the Secretary, who retains the discretion to consider other factors and information in addition to FEMA's funding recommendations. For additional information on how IJs are reviewed and scored at the [SAA](#) and federal levels, please refer to the FY 2021 NSGP NOFO.

19. Why am I required to self-identify with one of the following four categories: 1) Ideology-based/Spiritual/Religious; 2) Educational; 3) Medical; or 4) Other?

As noted in question 18, organizations that are at heightened risk due to their ideology, beliefs, or mission are prioritized in the final scoring process.

20. What are the requirements for Nonprofit organizations to work with or share information with law enforcement?

There are no requirements for information sharing between nonprofits and federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement. However, the NPSG grant does seek to bring nonprofit organizations into broader state and local preparedness efforts by removing barriers to communication and being more inclusive.

21. Is there a security review performed on my application? If yes, at what point in the process does this review take place, and what information is provided?

Yes, there is a security review performed by the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis on prospective recipient organizations. This security review takes place after the competitive scoring and selection process is complete. The information provided for the security review is limited to the organization's name and physical address, as submitted by the nonprofit.



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22. What if the FY 2021 NSGP application period has closed?

FEMA encourages nonprofit organizations to prepare their application for the following fiscal year's application period using the FY 2021 NSGP NOFO as a guide. The organization may also contact the respective SAA for additional guidance.

23. What other resources are available to address programmatic, technical, and financial questions?

- For additional program-specific information, please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) help line at (800) 368-6498 or by e-mail at AskCSID@fema.dhs.gov, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.
- For support regarding financial grants management and budgetary technical assistance, applicants may contact the FEMA Award Administration Help Desk via e-mail at ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov.



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