

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

April 16, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Katie Britt
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Murphy
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Britt, and Ranking Member Murphy:

Thank you for your strong support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). As you draft the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY2027) Homeland Security (HLS) Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you provide no less than \$750,000,000 in funding for NSGP under section 2009 of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002* (6. U.S.C. 609a), of which \$375,000,000 is for eligible recipients located in high-risk urban areas that receive funding under section 2003 of such Act and \$375,000,000 is for eligible recipients that are located outside such areas. Together, these programs provide critical security resources to at-risk faith-based and other nonprofit institutions located in urban, suburban, and rural communities. In addition to ensuring that the NSGP is funded at these levels, we also again urge the committee to advocate for and maintain separate line-items for this program. The program provides critical security resources to at-risk faith-based and other nonprofit institutions located in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

Nonprofit organizations that are at risk of terrorist attacks – particularly houses of worship and other faith-based organizations – use the NSGP to provide funding for physical security enhancements as well as emergency preparedness training. NSGP funds are also used to enhance the engagement and cooperation between community groups, state and local homeland security organizations, and emergency management agencies to better prepare for, prevent, and respond

to acts of terrorism or other targeted attacks. This preparation and investment are critical to our national security and the freedom to worship and are part of DHS' comprehensive measures to strengthen the safety of our communities.

The threat of violence is unfortunately increasing at places of worship across our country at alarming rates. In the past few years, there has been an increase in hoax bomb threats and attacks against houses of worship that are intended to interrupt services and intimidate worshippers. In particular, there has been an increase in antisemitic incidents across the country following the October 7th attack on Israel. In 2025, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Audit of Antisemitic Incidents recorded nearly 10,000 antisemitic incidents in the United States, an over 893 percent increase over the past decade and the highest number recorded in a single year since ADL started tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979.¹

Nationwide, there have been countless acts of violence against religious communities, including, but not limited to, these specific incidents that underscore the importance and complexity of protecting our religious communities from violence and extremism:

- On May 21, 2025, two Israeli Embassy staffers were shot and killed outside the Capitol Jewish Museum in Washington, District of Columbia.²
- On June 1, 2025, Jewish community members in Boulder, Colorado, who were walking in solidarity with the 10/7 hostages, were attacked with Molotov cocktails and a makeshift flamethrower, injuring 12 people, one of whom later succumbed to her injuries and died.³
- On June 22, 2025, a man opened fire outside of Crosspointe Community Church in Wayne, Michigan.⁴
- On August 27, 2025, a man opened fire on the first day of school during a primary school Mass at the Church of the Annunciation in Minneapolis, Minnesota killing two children and injuring 30 others.⁵
- On September 29, 2025, a man drove a car into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Grand Blanc Township, Michigan, set fire to the building, and shot congregants, killing four people and injuring eight others.⁶
- On December 25, 2025, FBI agents disrupted a plot by a Florida man who scouted a nonprofit office with plans to return armed and target employees before Hanukkah.⁷

¹ <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/over-10000-antisemitic-incidents-recorded-us-oct-7-2023-accordingadl>

² <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/22/nx-s1-5407288/dc-shooting-israel-embassy-staffers-killed>

³ <https://www.cnn.com/us/live-news/boulder-colorado-antisemitic-attack-06-01-25>

⁴ <https://apnews.com/article/wayne-michigan-church-shooting-e207650364395f08c1a31937c4240331>

⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/shooter-kills-two-minneapolis-school-children-catholic-church-wounds-17-others-2025-08-28/>

⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/29/us/michigan-mormon-church-shooting-fire.html>

⁷ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fbi-alleged-plot-aipac/>

- On January 10, 2026, an arsonist set fire to Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, Mississippi.⁸
- On January 28, 2026, the New York Police Department arrested a man for deliberately ramming his car into the Chabad-Lubavitch World Headquarters in Brooklyn, New York.⁹
- On February 20, 2026, a Minneapolis man was sentenced to seventy months in prison for setting fires at two Minnesota mosques.¹⁰
- On March 12, 2026, a shooting and vehicle-ramming attack occurred at Temple Israel, a Reform synagogue, a West Bloomfield, MI congregation.

These examples highlight the ever-increasing need for the NSGP, but funding has not kept pace to meet the moment. In Fiscal Year 2024 (FY2024), FEMA received 7,584 grant applications for the NSGP, over 2,300 more than the previous year. These applicants requested \$978 million in federal funding, while NSGP received only \$274.5 million in FY24 appropriations. Even with the additional NSGP funding provided by the *National Security Supplemental Act* for FY2024, FEMA could only fund 43 percent of all grant applicants. This left more than half of the applicants without the funding they needed to provide security to their at-risk institutions.¹¹ In FY2025, the NSGP received \$274.5 million, but that funding has not been distributed yet due to delays at FEMA.¹²

Given the critical roles these nonprofit and other faith-based organizations play in supporting their local communities and the enormous threats they are facing, we respectfully urge you to strengthen the NSGP by properly funding the program at \$750,000,000 in FY2027, and we remain sincerely grateful for your past support of this critical program.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

⁸ <https://jewishinsider.com/2026/01/jackson-mississippi-synagogue-arson-attack/>

⁹ <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/29/us/chabad-lubavitch-headquarters-car-ramming-hnk>

¹⁰ <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mn/pr/arsonist-who-set-fire-two-minnesota-mosques-sentenced-seventy-monthsfederal-prison-0>

¹¹ <https://jewishinsider.com/2024/08/under-half-of-nonprofit-security-grant-applications-funded-in-2024-despiteadditional-funding/>

¹² <https://jewishinsider.com/2026/01/congress-nonprofit-security-grant-program-2026-jewish-leaders/>



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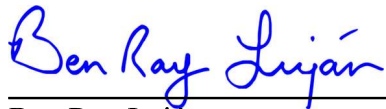
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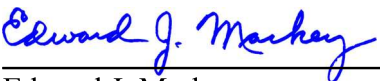
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