



Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) FAQ - commonly asked questions

Further information (to include new applicant webinars) can be found on the Washington Military Department NSGP application webpage [Grants NSGP Application Details | Washington State Military Department, Citizens Serving Citizens with Pride & Tradition](#)

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1. What is the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)?

NSGP is a federal grant appropriated to assist nonprofits at risk of terrorist and violent extremist attack, to improve and increase their physical/cyber security and facility/target hardening. Funding is awarded by the Department Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to each state for management.

2. What types of projects and activities can NSGP fund?

The NSGP may be used to fund the following types of projects and activities:

- Facility target hardening (to include lighting, fencing, bollards, security gates, secure doors and locking mechanisms, video and access control system, blast resistant window film – see the [notice of funding opportunity](#) for a more detailed list and/or the [Authorized Equipment List](#))
- Security-related training – allowable costs are limited to attendance fees for training and related expenses, such as materials, supplies, and/or equipment
- Security-related exercises – allowable costs may include costs related to planning, meeting space and other meeting costs, facilitation costs, materials and supplies, and documentation
- Security or emergency planning costs related to the protection of the facility and the people within the facility
- Limited cybersecurity enhancements
- Management and administration costs related to managing the federal award

3. Can NSGP fund any project?

No, all projects submitted for funding consideration (included in the application) must be supported by a valid and current Vulnerability Assessment (completed within the last 3

years, unless considerable modifications have occurred on the facility) and be allowable using NSGP funds according to the NSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and FEMA's Authorized Equipment List (AEL).

4. How do I receive information about the NSGP application period and future NSGP funding opportunities?

Sign up to receive NSGP updates via GovDelivery, and/or monitor the Washington Military Department's NSGP application webpage: [Grants NSGP Application Details | Washington State Military Department, Citizens Serving Citizens with Pride & Tradition](#)

5. Who is eligible to apply for NSGP?

Eligible applicants include ***nonprofit organizations*** that are at ***high risk of a terrorist or other extremist attack***. Additionally, a consortium of nonprofits, up to 10, may now apply. The consortium must select a Lead Nonprofit who will apply on behalf of the other nonprofits.

6. What are the eligibility requirements for NSGP?

- Eligible nonprofit organizations 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, ***and***
- Ability to demonstrate, through the application, that the organization is at ***high risk*** of a terrorist attack or other domestic violent extremist attack.

7. How is Domestic Violent Extremist defined?

Domestic violent extremist, DVE, is defined using one of two definitions:

1. Person or group with ideological agendas derived from bias, often related to race or ethnicity—held by the actor against others, including a given population group.
2. Person or group with ideological agendas that are not otherwise defined under one of the other domestic terrorism threat categories. Motivations may include a combination of personal grievances and beliefs with a potential bias to religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

8. Can nonprofits outside Washington apply for NSGP through the Washington Military Department?

No. The Washington Military Department can only include applications for submission to FEMA from nonprofits located within Washington state. If your facility is outside Washington, please visit FEMA's [State Administrative Agency \(SAA\) Contacts | FEMA.gov](#) webpage to find your contact.

9. Is the NSGP only open to places of worship?

No. Any nonprofit organization, faith-based or otherwise, that meets the eligibility criteria may apply.

10. What are some examples of eligible organizations?

Below are a few examples of eligible nonprofit organization types. This is not an exhaustive list.

- Faith-based organizations (churches, synagogues, mosques, or other faith-based facilities)
- Nonprofit healthcare facilities
- Nonprofit community centers, museums
- Nonprofit private schools, colleges, universities
- Nonprofit event venues and camps
- Shelters and crisis centers

11. What are some examples of ineligible organizations?

Below are a few examples of ineligible organization types. This is not an exhaustive list.

- Nonprofits that operate government owned buildings/facilities
- Nonprofit foundations of state/public universities
- Municipal/public schools, colleges, universities, libraries
- For-profit private schools, colleges, universities
- For-profit event venues (amusement parks, stadiums, etc.)
- Utility companies
- Volunteer fire departments/search and rescue teams (SAR)

12. Are nonprofit consortia eligible to apply for NSGP?

Yes. As of October 28, 2024, nonprofit consortia may submit applications for up to 10 nonprofit organizations. All consortium members **must be fully** located either in the Urban Area geographic area (King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties) or State geographic area (all counties outside King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties). There are additional and specific requirements for consortiums – see [Consortium Application Guide ! FEMA.gov](#)

13. What is a SAA?

Each state has an SAA or State Administrative Agency. The SAA is the only entity that can submit applications directly to FEMA under NSGP. The Washington Military Department is the SAA for Washington state. Nonprofit applicants must submit their applications to the SAA by the posted timeline (which differs from the dates in the Notice of Funding

Opportunity). See details here: [Grants NSGP Application Details | Washington State Military Department, Citizens Serving Citizens with Pride & Tradition](#)

14. Do I need to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply for NSGP funding?

Yes. To submit an NSGP application, all eligible applicants will need to complete a Notice of Intent form. The link to complete this form will be provided on our NSGP Applicant webpage upon the release of the NSGP NOFO.

15. How do I complete a Vulnerability Assessment?

A Vulnerability Assessment is required for the application. The Vulnerability Assessment can be completed through the following methods:

- Scheduling a site assessment through your local law enforcement agency
- Utilizing Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) [Houses of Worship Security Self-Assessment Tool](#)

Consortia have the option to submit either individual Vulnerability Assessments for each nonprofit in the consortium or a shared Vulnerability Assessment that reflects the collective risks faced by all consortium members as summarized in the application.

16. Does a Vulnerability Assessment need to be completed for each application?

Vulnerability Assessments are specific to the facility/location. A Vulnerability Assessment completed within the last three years is considered current and valid as long as there have not been considerable modifications on the facility.

Consortia have the option to submit either individual Vulnerability Assessments for each nonprofit in the consortium or a shared Vulnerability Assessment that reflects the collective risks faced by all consortium members as summarized in the application.

17. Are there technical assistance meetings scheduled during the NSGP-NSS application period?

Recorded webinars and other resources on our website to assist applicants in preparing their documents. See details here: [Grants NSGP Application Details | Washington State Military Department, Citizens Serving Citizens with Pride & Tradition](#)

Applicants who require additional assistance may schedule a technical assistance meeting during our NSGP Applicant Office Hours.

18. What documents are needed for a complete NSGP application?

To be considered for funding, all applications must include the following forms and documents:

- Vulnerability Assessment (completed within the last three years)

- Completed NSGP Investment Justification (IJ)* form
- Organization Mission Statement (on official letterhead, if available)
- **ONLY IF APPLYING AS A CONSORTIUM:** Completed Consortium Workbook

***IMPORTANT:** The Investment Justification form can be difficult to open. Please download the form to your computer using either Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge web browsers, then open using Adobe. The IJ form cannot be viewed in a web browser.

19. How much funding can be requested in each application?

- Individual nonprofits can request up to \$200,000 per application for eligible projects.
- Consortia can request up to \$1 million per application, up to 10 nonprofit organizations.

20. Can you request funding for multiple locations?

Funding for multiple locations can be requested, however each physical location (address) must be submitted in a separate application.

21. How many applications can be submitted?

Eligible nonprofits can submit **up to three** applications up to \$200,000 each, for a maximum cumulative total of \$600,000.

22. What is the difference between NSGP-Urban Area and NSGP-State?

The NSGP funding is split geographically as follows:

- NSGP-Urban Area: organizations with facilities within King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties
- NSGP-State: organizations with facilities in all other Washington counties outside King Pierce, and Snohomish counties

23. Can my organization apply for funding under both NSGP-Urban Area and NSGP-State?

Yes, eligible nonprofits may apply for up to six separate sites in both the NSGP-Urban Area and NSGP-State funding categories. Requested funding per application cannot exceed \$200,000 and the cumulative amount requested for all applications cannot exceed \$600,000.

24. Does an organization need a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number to apply for funding?

No. A UEI is not needed to apply for funding. However, organizations must obtain a UEI number before receiving funding. We recommend starting the process as soon as possible as it can take several weeks to receive a UEI number.

25. When are applications due?

All interested nonprofits who have completed a Notice of Intent, must submit their applications to preparedness.grants@mil.wa.gov no later than the Washington state application due date outlined in the Key Dates section of the NSGP Application website. Please visit [Grants NSGP Application Details | Washington State Military Department, Citizens Serving Citizens with Pride & Tradition](#) for additional details.

26. How do I submit the NSGP application?

All applicants must submit their application documents via email to preparedness.grants@mil.wa.gov.

Please use the following subject line(s) for your submission type:

- Individual Nonprofit Applications: *NSGP Application Submission [Nonprofit Name]*
- Nonprofit Consortium Applications: *NSGP Application Submission [Consortium Lead Name]*

Refer to the How to Apply document on the Washington Military Department NSGP application webpage for document naming requirements. [Grants NSGP Application Details | Washington State Military Department, Citizens Serving Citizens with Pride & Tradition](#)

27. What happens after an application is submitted?

All applications will be reviewed for eligibility to apply (NOI was submitted on time and the applicant is a nonprofit organization) and general allowability of projects. All eligible applications will be scored by a review panel and ranked by that score. The applications and ranked list will be submitted to FEMA by the federal application due date. See [NOFO Appendix A](#) for SAA scoring criteria.

28. What is the scoring process?

The list of applications is submitted to FEMA with associated scores. The highest ranked applications are reviewed by DHS/FEMA federal staff and the final score is determined. See [NOFO E. Application Review Information 2. Review and Selection Process](#) for specific calculation.

29. How are awards determined?

Awards are determined from highest to lowest scored and all final funding decisions are made by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

30. How will I know if an application was selected for funding?

FEMA will notify the SAA/Washington Military Department of the applications awarded funding under NSGP late summer 2025, or approximately the August to September timeframe. SAA staff will notify all applicants of their results.

31. If my project is selected for funding, how long until I can start work?

A grant agreement must be executed between the nonprofit and the Washington Military Department. SAA staff will coordinate all details to be included in the grant agreement (Work Plan, Budget, and Scope). Additionally, there are project dependent approvals that are needed before work can start to include an Environmental Historical Preservation (EHP) review. Nonprofit subrecipients will need to attend new subrecipient training to include EHP webinars, submit the required documentation, and receive approval from FEMA before starting work.

32. What happens after the awards are announced?

SAA staff will be in contact to gather additional organizational details and finalize the Work Plan, Budget, and Timeline information for the grant agreement. There are stringent federal timelines that must be observed. We recommend ensuring your organization has their UEI number and are responsive to any inquiry.

33. Does an organization need a UEI to receive an award?

Per FEMA requirements, all organizations must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through sam.gov to receive an NSGP grant agreement. We recommend requesting the UEI **immediately** during the application period as it can take a significant amount of time to get through the process.

To Request a UEI and/or Register/Renew your Entity Registration please visit sam.gov. If applying as a consortium, only the **lead consortium nonprofit** submitting the application is required to obtain a UEI.

34. Does the SAA/Washington Military Department issue UEI numbers?

No. UEI numbers are issued by the federal government through the [sam.gov website](https://sam.gov). Please visit the website for additional details on how to obtain this number. We recommend starting the process as soon as possible as it can take several weeks to receive the UEI.

35. Do all nonprofits in a consortium need a UEI?

No. Only the lead consortium member who submits the consortium application will need to obtain a UEI number.