

NON-PROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

The Urban Areas Security Initiative's (UASI) Non-profit Security Grant Program is designed to provide federal funding to non-profit organizations that have a high risk of terrorist attacks. The funding may only be used for security purposes such as the acquisition and installation of security equipment on real property owned or leased by the non-profit organization or security-related training programs. Once the funds are provided, the organization has thirty six (36) months to implement the security measures.

Funds for 2010 will be available to applicants who (a) qualify as tax exempt, non-profit organizations under Sections 501(a) & (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, (b) have a risk of being victimized by terrorist attacks and (c) are located within one of the UASI-eligible urban areas. Both New York City and the Jersey City/Newark areas qualify as eligible urban areas.

Each individual non-profit organization may be granted a maximum of \$75,000. However, recipients are required to contribute 25% of any amount awarded from their own funds. For example, if an organization receives the maximum award of \$75,000, the Federal government will only actually provide \$56,250 to the organization, and the organization must contribute the remaining \$18,750 from its own fundraising efforts. These required contributions must be derived from non-Federal sources and may be made either in cash or through in-kind contributions that directly relate to the organization's proposed security programs. For example, qualifying in-kind contributions include; new equipment purchased to enhance the organization's security against terrorist attacks.

Applications are evaluated in a two step process by State and Federal authorities. The key component to the application is the Investment Justification, which is a written document prepared by the organization which states the basis for the organization's qualifications under the UASI. A copy of an Investment Justification is available at: <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/uasi/index.shtm>. The key evaluation criteria include:

- identification and substantiation of prior threats or attacks (within or outside the U.S.) by a terrorist organization, network, or cell against the applicant;
- symbolic value of the site(s) as a highly recognized national or historical institution(s) that renders the site a possible target of terrorism
- proximity of the non-profit organization to identified critical infrastructure/known resource;
- role of the applicant non-profit organization in responding to terrorist attacks;
- findings from previously conducted threat and/or vulnerability assessments;
- integration of applicant with broader state and local preparedness efforts, including involvement with the Citizen Corps Council;
- a description of proposed target-hardening activities that address an identified risk, including threat and vulnerability; and
- a description of how the 75/25 match in kind will be met.

Although the 2009 application window has passed, a qualifying organization should begin preparing for the 2010 award announcement by taking the following steps:

1. Sign up for the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) security alert list. You will be notified if, and when, new grant opportunities arise. You can sign up here: http://www.jrcny.org/html/jcrc_list_form.php.
2. Apply for a New York E-Grant account at the following website: http://www.security.state.ny.us/Grant-Guidance/grantee_forms_NFP.htm.
3. All grant applicants must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number. This number can be obtained at no cost by calling the DUNS Number request line at (866) 705-5711.
4. Prepare a Risk & Vulnerability Assessment. This is a written document that identifies threats, vulnerabilities and possible consequences of an attack on your site or people, and using those findings, makes recommendations to enhance deterrence, detection and damage limitation. Many police departments will conduct a risk assessment at no cost. An organization may also hire a security expert to conduct the assessment. Organizations should note threats, bomb scares, anti-Semitic graffiti or other suspicious activity specifically affecting the organization. Risk assessments can and should reflect gaps in equipment, training and procedures and make recommendations to bridge them.
5. Affiliate with the Citizen Corps Council, a subsidiary of FEMA designed to bring together government and community leaders to involve citizens in emergency preparedness and resilience. You can sign up with the Citizen Corps here: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cc/addSubscribers.do>.

Not all applicants are guaranteed funding. The review boards will rank applications based on (i) how well the applications address the identified topics in the Investment Justification, (ii) how clearly the application states the risk of harm posed, (iii) the relative need of the organization compared to other applicants, and (iv) the potential impact of the applicant's requested investment on achieving maximum prevention and/or protection results at minimal cost.

If you have any questions about the matters covered herein, please contact Terrence A. Oved, Esq. at Oved & Oved LLP, 212.226.2376 or terry@ovedlaw.com.

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