



FY26 Homeland Security-Nonprofit Grant Program

Notice of Non-Profit Grant Preparation Sessions

February 20, 2026

Purpose: This announcement is intended to help organizations prepare for the upcoming FY26 Homeland Security Nonprofit Security Grant Program. All proposed projects must support the program's priority of enhancing the security and resilience of soft targets and crowded places.

Eligibility: To qualify for grant funding, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate, within the application, that the organization faces a high risk of terrorist attack.
- Maintain an Active Unique Entity Identification Number (UEI) through: www.SAMS.gov
- **Be recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization** under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and be tax-exempt under section 501(a).

Note: Certain faith-based organizations—such as churches, mosques, and synagogues—are not required by the IRS to apply for or obtain formal recognition of exemption under section 501(c)(3). These organizations are automatically considered tax-exempt if they meet the statutory requirements. For organizations that *are* required to apply for recognition of exemption, states may or may not require proof of exemption, provided the chosen approach is applied consistently. Refer to links below for additional information:

- <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/exemption-requirements-501c3-organizations>
- <https://www.irs.gov/publications/p557>
- <https://www.irs.gov/charities-and-nonprofits>

Ineligible Entities: The following types of organizations are not eligible to apply for funding under the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. These categories may be updated upon release of FEMA's official Notice of Funding Opportunity.

- Utility companies
- For-profit transportation companies (e.g., commercial bus operators)
- For-profit hospitals
- Organizations engaged in political activity, lobbying, or advocacy
- Volunteer fire departments
- Community service organizations (e.g., Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions Clubs)
- Homeowner associations
- Labor, agricultural, or horticultural organizations
- Examples include labor unions, county fairs, and flower societies

Grant Preparation Sessions: The MOHS will host two virtual grant preparation workshops to address applicant questions and provide updates on funding, program priorities, and key information for the upcoming grant year.

Grant Preparation Sessions will be held virtually on the following dates:

- March 18, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- April 1, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Registration for the Grant Preparation Sessions is now open. To register for either session, please use the link provided: <https://mohsgrants.jotform.com/260345977418063>

Preparation Steps for Applicants:

The following preparation steps are designed to help potential applicants get ready for the upcoming release of the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. Several required items may take time to obtain or update. By completing the steps below in advance, applicants will be better positioned to submit a timely and complete application once the official materials are released.

- Acquire a Unique Entity Identification (UEI) Number-Organizations must have an active UEI registered through SAM.gov. If your organization does not yet have a UEI, begin this process as soon as possible, as verification and activation can take time.
- Obtain a Current Threat Assessment-A threat, vulnerability, or risk assessment is a required component of the application. Applicants should begin coordinating with qualified professionals or local law enforcement to secure an assessment that accurately reflects the organization's current security posture.
- Gather Documentation Supporting 501(c)(3) Status or Applicable Exemptions-Applicants should collect all documents demonstrating their nonprofit status, including IRS determination letters or, for faith-based organizations that are automatically exempt, any materials that verify eligibility. Having these documents ready will help ensure a smooth submission process.

Next Steps for Applicants:

The application, along with the annual guidance and program requirements, cannot be released until FEMA provides the required program documents to the states. Once FEMA issues the official materials, MOHS will promptly make the application and all related guidance available to eligible applicants.

Application Release and Deadlines: The application and accompanying funding guidance will be posted on the MOHS website at <https://www.homelandsecurity.ms.gov/>. These materials will be published as soon as they are received from DHS/FEMA and formally available for release to applicants. Deadlines and timelines will be provided at the time of Application release.

Grant Writing Webinars: MOHS will host two virtual grant writing workshops designed to assist applicants with understanding program requirements, addressing questions, and preparing strong submissions. These sessions will also provide updates on funding priorities and key information for the upcoming grant year.

At this time, grant writing activities are on hold because the official Application has not yet been released by DHS/FEMA. MOHS cannot begin the workshops until the required federal documents are received. Once FEMA provides the Application and related materials to the states, MOHS will confirm the dates and proceed with the scheduled Grant Writing Sessions.

Questions: For questions related to the grant application, guidelines or need technical assistance, please contact the MOHS email address at mohsgrants@dps.ms.gov.

FEMA Additional Information: Further grant specific information can be found on the FEMA website at: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/nonprofit-security/nonprofit-security-grant-program-notices-funding-opportunity>