

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 1836 (Gabriel and Ward)
As Amended March 19, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program (Program) to include events hosted by nonprofit organizations, whether onsite or offsite, when improving the physical security of nonprofit organizations that are at high risk for violent attacks or hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs, or mission.

Major Provisions

1. Requires the Program to include events hosted by nonprofit organizations when improving the physical security of nonprofit organizations, as specified.
2. Authorizes grants provided to nonprofit organizations through the Program to include events hosted by nonprofit organizations.
3. Authorizes grants provided to nonprofit organizations through the Program to include security for onsite or offsite events hosted by a nonprofit organization.
4. Clarifies a nonprofit organization without a physical site is eligible for funding for offsite events if the event is at a high risk for violent attacks or hate crimes, as specified.
5. Other nonsubstantive and clarifying changes.

COMMENTS

The federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) was authorized by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and is subject to annual appropriations.¹ In years prior to FY 2018, the NSGP was tailored to target hardening and other physical security enhancements to nonprofit organizations located inside urban areas designated to be at higher risk by the United States Department of Homeland Security. The NSGP is a competitive grant program and promotes emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration activities between public and private community representatives as well as state and local government agencies. Allowable costs are focused on target hardening activities. Funding can be used for the acquisition and installation of security equipment on real property, including buildings and improvements, owned or leased by the nonprofit organization, specifically in prevention of and/or protection against the risk of a terrorist attack. Equipment acquired under this grant program is usually limited to physical security enhancement equipment and inspection and screening systems. Among other things, an applicant must complete a vulnerability assessment.

Established by AB 1185 in 2024, the purpose of the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program is to provide funding support for security enhancements and target hardening and other security enhancements to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk for violent attacks and hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs, or mission, with requests for proposals announced every year

¹ Nonprofit Security Grant Program, <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/nonprofit-security>

since.² Prior to the Program's establishment, the State of California augmented the NSGP with an additional \$4.5 million, awarded to an additional 70 organizations. While the focus of the federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program has been on nonprofits located in urban areas, the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program (CSNPSGP) has enhanced security at nonprofits throughout the state.

According to the Author

The California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program has been very impactful since its creation in 2019, becoming the most popular grant program at CalOES. Even with this success, there is a clear need to continue to remove barriers and bolster California's security support infrastructure. AB 1836 expands funding access for off-site events in need of security, such as LGBTQ+ Pride celebrations, cultural festivals, and religious observances, ensuring California continues to protect our vulnerable communities targeted by hate.

Arguments in Support

Jewish California (formerly JPAC, who is sponsoring the bill), write "the threat against the Jewish community and all vulnerable groups is growing. According to the California Attorney General's annual Hate Crimes report, hate crime events increased by 52% from 2020 to 2024 – with anti-Jewish and anti-Black bias events among the most prevalent every year. At the same time, demand for the CSNSGP has reached record levels. More than 1,600 organizations applied in the most recent funding cycle, collectively requesting over \$325 million in support. Since the program's inception in fiscal year 2015, the state has awarded nearly \$229 million in grants to 1,271 high-risk nonprofit organizations – a testament to how critical this program has become."

The California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus also write in support, "hate crimes and violence continue to rise across the state, with California Attorney General data showing a 52% increase in hate crime events from 2020 to 2024. Many nonprofits – including LGBTQ+ organizations, houses of worship, and community centers – host events throughout their communities rather than in permanent locations. These organizations often face significant, cost-prohibitive security challenges when planning public gatherings such as Pride celebrations, cultural festivals, and religious observances. While the CSNSGP has provided life-saving support for houses of worship, LGBTQ+ organizations, community centers, and reproductive rights centers, vulnerable communities are still at risk during public events. Many nonprofit organizations do not have a permanent physical location and instead host events throughout the community. With hate-motivated violence on the rise, gathering in this way is becoming more dangerous, and the need for greater security is often cost-prohibitive. This is a threat to community-building, especially for organizations without a physical community gathering center to fall back on. AB 1836 closes this critical gap by allowing CSNSGP funding to cover security costs for off-site events, ensuring that nonprofits can continue to build community safely. By supporting this bill, California will protect individuals from harm, preserve safe public spaces for vulnerable communities, and uphold the fundamental right to assemble and celebrate without fear."

This bill is sponsored by Jewish California and supported by the California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus, California Association of Nonprofits, and many other community organizations.

² California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program (CSNSGP) <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Grants/Documents/RFP/FY-2025-CSNSGP-RFP.pdf>

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

- 1) Ongoing cost pressures of an unknown amount, potentially in excess of \$150,000, to appropriate additional money to the CSNSGP, to the extent expanding the allowable use of grant money to include event security diminishes the amount of grant awards available to currently eligible applicants (General Fund (GF)).
- 2) Absorbable costs to OES to revise program eligibility criteria, although OES notes the measure would necessitate significant restructuring of the current CSNSGP framework (GF). OES received \$4 million in the Budget Act of 2026 for CSNSGP administrative support costs, with funds available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2028.

VOTES**ASM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: 6-0-1**

YES: Ransom, Hadwick, Arambula, Bennett, Calderon, DeMaio

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bains

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

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CONSULTANT: Ugbad Farah / E.M. / (916) 319-3802

FN: 0002901