
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Senator Henry Stern

Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 1836	Hearing Date:	6/23/2026
Author:	Gabriel		
Version:	3/19/2026 Amended		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Cassie Royce		

SUBJECT: California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program

SUMMARY: Expands the pool of nonprofit organizations eligible to apply for grants from the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program (Cal NSGP) to include events hosted by nonprofit organizations and makes security for onsite or offsite events hosted by nonprofit organizations an approved use of the funds.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Cal NSGP administered by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to provide grant funding to improve the physical security of nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of violent attacks or hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs, or mission.
- 2) Provides that the Cal NSGP shall provide grants to nonprofit organizations for the purpose of hardening soft targets that are nonprofit organizations and at a high risk for violent attacks and hate crimes, as specified.
- 3) Authorizes applicants to use grant funds for prescribed security enhancements, including security guards, reinforced doors and gates, high-intensity lighting and alarms, security training, and any other security enhancement consistent with the purpose of the Cal NSGP.
- 4) Allows grant money to be distributed to an applicant that provides support to another nonprofit organization or a cluster of other nonprofit organizations at a high risk for violent attacks and hate crimes, as specified.
- 5) Makes operation of the Cal NSGP contingent on an appropriation in the annual Budget Act.

This bill:

- 1) Adds events hosted by nonprofit organizations to the list of nonprofit organizations eligible to apply for the Cal NSGP.
- 2) Includes security for onsite or offsite events hosted by a nonprofit organization in the list of allowable security enhancements for which Cal NSGP money may be distributed to an applicant.
- 3) Provides that a nonprofit organization without a physical site shall not be limited from being eligible for funding for offsite events if the event is at a high risk for violent attacks or hate crimes, as specified.

Background

Author's statement. 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 Cal OES. 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.”

Hate Crimes in California. Local law enforcement agencies are required to report hate crimes to the California Department of Justice (DOJ). Hate crimes are criminal offenses against a person or property, motivated in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

The California DOJ report titled *Hate Crime in California 2024* presents statistics on hate crimes reported by California law enforcement agencies that occurred during 2024 with prior years included for context. In the last 10 years, reported hate crime events have increased by approximately 90%. According to the 2024 report, hate crime events that increased year-over-year most rapidly include those involving a sexual orientation bias and an anti-Jewish bias.

Federal and state NSGP. The federal NSGP was authorized by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to target hardening and other physical security enhancements to nonprofit organizations located inside urban areas designated to be at higher risk by the Department of Homeland Security. It is a competitive grant program intended to promote emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration between public and private community representatives as well as state and local government agencies. Grant funds can be used for the acquisition and installation of physical security equipment and inspection and screening systems specifically to prevent and/or protect against the risk of a terrorist attack. Applicants must complete a vulnerability assessment.

While the focus of the federal NSGP has been on nonprofits located in urban areas, the Cal NSGP provides funds for enhanced security at nonprofits throughout the state that are at high risk for violent attacks and hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs, or mission. In 2019, AB 1548 (Gabriel, Chapter 734, Statutes of 2019) codified the Cal NSGP and identified specific eligible security enhancements. Only California nonprofit organizations that are described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from tax may apply.

The Cal NSGP is a competitive program; therefore, scoring criteria have been established and funding is awarded to the top-scoring applications until all allocated funding is awarded. Last month, Cal OES announced awarding \$80 million in funding from Cal NSGP to 343 nonprofit and faith-based organizations throughout California to invest in safety enhancements, alarm systems, and emergency preparedness improvements.

This bill makes events hosted by nonprofit organizations eligible to apply for Cal NSGP and includes security for onsite or offsite events hosted by nonprofit organizations as an allowable use of funds.

Prior Legislation

AB 1185 (Gabriel), Chapter 566, Statutes of 2023, requires Cal OES to provide ongoing technical assistance, including a resource page and continuous outreach, to stakeholders on available resources for vulnerability assessments when applying to the Cal NSGP.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT:

Equality California (sponsor)
Jewish California (sponsor)
30 Years After
Adat Shalom Los Angeles
Agudath Israel of California
American Jewish Committee Los Angeles
American Jewish Committee Northern California
American Jewish Committee San Diego
Anti-Defamation League
Bay Area Center to Counter Antisemitism
Bay Area Jewish Coalition Education & Advocacy
Beverly Hills Synagogue
Board of Rabbis of Southern California
California Catholic Conference
California Jewish Democrats
Cedars-Sinai
CHAI Marin K-12
Contra Costa Jewish Democrats
Democrats for Israel Los Angeles
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America
Hillel of San Diego
Holocaust Museum Los Angeles
Intercultural Networks Group
Jewish Center for Justice
Jewish Coalition of Berkeley
Jewish Community Center Federation of San Luis Obispo
Jewish Community Relations Council Bay Area
Jewish Community Relations Council Jewish Long Beach
Jewish Community Relations Council Sacramento
Jewish Community Relations Council Santa Barbara County
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Democratic Club of Marin
Jewish Democratic Coalition of the Bay Area
Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties
Jewish Family and Community Services East Bay
Jewish Family and Community Services Long Beach and Orange County
Jewish Family Service Los Angeles
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Jewish Family Service of the Desert
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
Jewish Federation Bay Area

Jewish Federation Los Angeles
Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara
Jewish Federation of Orange County
Jewish Federation of San Diego
Jewish Federation of the Desert
Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys
Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region
Jewish Federation of Ventura County
Jewish Free Loan Association
Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation
Jewish Silicon Valley
Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Department of California
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Mayor Todd Gloria, City of San Diego
National Council of Jewish Women California
National Council of Jewish Women San Francisco
Northern California Jewish Labor Committee
Oakland Jewish Alliance
Palo Alto Jewish Alliance
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Progressive Zionists of California
San Francisco Jews in School
Simon Wiesenthal Center
StandWithUs
The Jewish Coalition of Berkeley
Valley Beth Shalom

OPPOSITION:

None on file

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In support of the bill, the sponsors, Jewish California and Equality California write that, “Demand for the [Cal NSGP] has reached record levels. More than 1,600 organizations applied in the most recent funding cycle, collectively requesting over \$325 million in support....While [Cal NSGP] has provided vital support for houses of worship, LGBTQ+ organizations, community centers, reproductive health clinics, and others, a critical gap remains. Vulnerable communities are still at risk during offsite 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, the cost of securing these gatherings has become prohibitive for many organizations.... AB 1836 is a straightforward but important update to the [Cal NSGP] that would

allow nonprofit organizations to use grant funding for security at offsite events. By closing this gap, the bill would help ensure that all nonprofits—especially those most vulnerable to hate-motivated violence and harassment—can access the resources they need to protect their communities.”