
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1836 (Gabriel) - California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program

Version: March 19, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: E.M. 9 - 0
Mandate: No
Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 1836 expands the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program (CSNSGP) by allowing nonprofit organizations to receive grant funding for events they host, explicitly making security for both onsite and offsite events an approved use of CSNSGP funds.

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown cost pressures to the CSNSGP, to the extent that expanding the allowable use of grant funding to include event security diverts resources from other eligible organizations that could have otherwise received project funding.
- The Office of Emergency Services (OES), which administers the CSNSGP, anticipates any increased workload to manage the expanded program criteria to be absorbable.

Staff notes the 2026-27 Budget Act provides an ongoing baseline augmentation of \$80 million for the program, which includes \$4 million specifically designated for program administration and technical assistance.

Background: The federal NSGP was authorized by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to fund target hardening and other physical security enhancements for nonprofit organizations located within urban areas designated by the Department of Homeland Security to be at higher risk. It is a competitive grant program intended to promote emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration among public and private community representatives, as well as state and local government agencies. Grant funds can be used to acquire and install physical security equipment, as well as inspection and screening systems, specifically to prevent and protect against terrorist attacks. To be eligible, applicants must complete a vulnerability assessment.

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

Because the CSNSGP is a competitive program, scoring criteria have been established, and funding is awarded to the top-scoring applicants until all allocated funds are exhausted. Last month, OES announced the award of \$80 million in CSNSGP funding

to 343 nonprofit and faith-based organizations throughout California to invest in safety enhancements, alarm systems, and emergency preparedness improvements.

Proposed Law:

- Adds events hosted by nonprofit organizations to the list of nonprofit organizations eligible to apply for the CSNSGP.
- Includes security for onsite or offsite events hosted by a nonprofit organization in the list of allowable security enhancements for which CSNSGP money may be distributed to an applicant.
- 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.

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