
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1836
Author: Gabriel (D) and Ward (D)
Amended: 8/19/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EMERGENCY MGT. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 6/23/26

AYES: Stern, Seyarto, Allen, Ashby, Blakespear, Dahle, Grayson, Pérez, Rubio

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program

SOURCE: Equality California
Jewish California

DIGEST: This bill 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.

Senate Floor amendments of 8/19/26 add a coauthor and make other clarifying changes.

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, and consistent with the nonprofit organization's mission, belief, and ideology, 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.
- 4) Limits security for offsite events to \$25,000 of the grant funds awarded.
- 5) Prohibits Cal OES from imposing monetary or percentile limits on any individual eligible security enhancement, as specified.

Background

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. 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. Only California nonprofit organizations that are described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from tax may apply. 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.

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

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 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.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/19/26)

Equality California (co-source)

Jewish California (co-source)

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, Inc.

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 & Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Long Beach and Orange County
Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay
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
Valley Industry and Commerce Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/19/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In support of this bill, the co-sponsors, Equality California and Jewish 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.”

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/27/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Cassie Royce / E.M. /
8/20/26 10:35:58

**** **END** ****