

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1836 (Gabriel and Ward)

As Amended August 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.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Clarifies that the security for onsite or offsite events that are hosted by a nonprofit organization eligible for the grant must be consistent with the nonprofit organization's mission, belief, and ideology.
- 2) Limits security for offsite events to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) of the grant funds awarded.
- 3) Prohibits the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) from imposing monetary and percentile limits on any individual eligible security enhancement, except as specified.
- 4) Specifies "security for onsite or offsite events" to include, but is not limited to, security guards, temporary security infrastructure, surveillance and screening equipment, access control measures, emergency response coordination, and other reasonable and necessary measures to prevent, deter, or respond to threats of violence or hate-motivated incidents at events hosted by a nonprofit organization.

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 fiscal year (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

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

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 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 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.

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

According to the Committee on Senate Appropriations,

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.

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

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0-2

YES: 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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

UPDATED

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