FY 2024 Nonprofit Security Grant Program Funding Opportunity

The Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) anticipates the annual Non-Profit Security Grant Program (NSGP) application cycle will begin soon. Typical applicants for this grant program include organizations such as churches, non-profit hospitals, non-profit higher education institutions, and more. However, as Congress has not yet approved funding for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants, IOEM will likely have shorter submission deadlines.

The focus of NSGP is to prevent, protect against, prepare for, and respond to terrorist or other extremist attacks against nonprofit organizations. The NSGP provides funding for physical enhancements, cybersecurity enhancements, and other security-related activities to nonprofit organizations subject to such attacks.

Given the evolving threat landscape, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and FEMA have evaluated the national risk profile and established these grant funding responses.

Enhancing the physical protective measures for soft targets, crowded places, and facilities by funding projects such as:

- Facility Physical Access Controls including vehicle barriers, fences and Jersey Walls, blast resistant buildings, doors, and gates.
- Facility Physical Access Control Sensors, Alarm Systems, Closed circuit security cameras.
- Security screening equipment for people and baggage.
- Facility Public Address systems for alerts, warnings, and notifications.

Funding is also available for cybersecurity enhancements, to develop or update Emergency Operations Plans, perform emergency response training, and conduct exercises to hone emergency response skills.

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

IOEM is the designated State Administrative Agency (SAA) for Idaho and is the only eligible applicant for this grant program. Non-profit organizations are eligible as subapplicants to IOEM. For NSGP, eligible subapplicants are those organizations that are:

1. Described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such code. This includes Houses of Worship, nonprofit medical facilities, nonprofit institutions of higher learning and other designated organizations, and
2. Able to demonstrate, through their application, that their organization is at high risk of a terrorist or other extremist attack;

Nonprofit subapplicants with one site may apply for up to $150,000 for that site. Nonprofit subapplicants may apply for multiple sites for up to $150,000 per site, for up to three sites, for

a maximum of $450,000 per nonprofit subapplicant per state. If a nonprofit subapplicant applies for multiple sites, it must submit a separate **Investment Justification (IJ)** for each site.

Typically, IOEM begins to solicit applications in the middle of March and the deadline for submission to IOEM is mid-April. IOEM would then review, compile all the sub-applicants, and submit its application to FEMA in the middle of May. With the delay in Congress, this may result in a short opportunity for nonprofits to complete their applications. Fortunately, there are some required items that can be completed before the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for NSGP is released by FEMA.

Immediate Application Criteria

- **Mission Statement**: Each nonprofit subapplicant must include a mission statement and any mission implementation policies or practices that may elevate the organization's risk.
- **Vulnerability Assessment (VA):** The VA is the foundation upon which the IJ is built. The VA addresses threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences of potential events at a site or location and potential consequences unique to that site. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) provides a free online VA designed for houses of worship, but it can work well for any nonprofit. It can be accessed here www.cisa.gov/houses-worship-security-self-assessment. If possible, applicants may want to recruit a local individual with law enforcement or military experience to benefit from their specific knowledge and experience.
- **Unique Entity Identifier**: Each subapplicant must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) issued by System for Award Management (SAM.gov) prior to the grant award. Registering at SAM.Gov typically takes 7-10 days.
- **Completing the Justification:** Obtaining cost estimates and completing the IJ is not difficult, but it could take some time to complete. Once your VA is complete you will be able to estimate costs for your enhancements and development performance timelines.

Completing your Mission Statement, Vulnerability Assessment, and obtaining a UEI early can save you valuable time to devote to preparing a complete and convincing IJ.