

Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS)/ Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)
State Fiscal Year 2026 - State of Ohio Security Grant
(OSG) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

I. Program Description

- A. Issued by
Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS)/ Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)
- B. Funding Opportunity Title
State Fiscal Year 2026 State of Ohio Security Grant (SFY26 OSG)
- C. Authorizing & Appropriations Authority for Program
House Bill 96 of the 136th General Assembly
- D. Overview
The State of Ohio Security Grant (OSG) program awards grants competitively to eligible Ohio nonprofit organizations, houses of worship, chartered nonpublic schools, and Ohio Department of Education (ODE) licensed preschools for eligible security improvements that assist the organization in preventing, preparing for, or responding to acts of terrorism. "Terrorism" means any act taken by a group or individual used to intimidate or coerce a nonprofit organization, house of worship, chartered nonpublic school, or ODE licensed preschool, its employees, and anyone who is or in the future may be associated with it, as well as their families; to influence the policy of the nonprofit organization, house of worship, chartered nonpublic school, or ODE licensed preschool; and to affect the conduct of the nonprofit organization, house of worship, chartered nonpublic school, or ODE licensed preschool.
- E. Objective
The objective of the OSG program is to mitigate security vulnerabilities, to eligible organizations, thereby reducing the risk and potential impact of terrorist threats and attacks.

II. Award Information

- A. All decisions on the grant are in the sole discretion of Ohio EMA and are not subject to appeal or review. The grant awards contemplated by this grant solicitation are subject to the determination, by the Director of Budget and Management, that sufficient funds have been appropriated by the General Assembly to ODPS for the purposes of this grant and to the certification of the availability of such funds by the Director as required by O.R.C. Section 126.07. Ohio EMA may suspend or terminate this grant solicitation if the General Assembly fails to appropriate funds for any grant award.
- B. An eligible organization may apply for up to two sites with a maximum funding request for each site of \$125,000 (maximum request per organization is \$250,000). A site is defined by a unique physical address (i.e. – a street address). In cases where multiple buildings with different primary functions are located at a single physical address, those buildings are considered separate sites. For instance, a building that functions as a house of worship and separate building that functions as a chartered nonpublic school located at the same physical address may be considered separate sites. In this case, the organization may submit site applications for security measures at both the school and house of worship. A separate vulnerability assessment must be conducted for each separate site (i.e. – each separate site application).
- C. OSG is a reimbursement grant; However, grantees will receive a 10% advance disbursement at the beginning of the performance period. Upon demonstrated completion of the project, proof of competitive procurement, and proof of expended funds up to the total grant amount. There is no cost share requirement for the OSG.

D. Period of Performance: February 1, 2026 – January 31, 2028

The Period of Performance is the period of time during which the grant recipient must complete the grant projects, incur and expend approved funds. At the end of the period of performance begins a 3-month close-out period (February 1, 2028 –April 30, 2028), whereby recipients may submit confirmation of completed projects and/or services and final expenditure requests.

III. Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- A. Eligible Applicants include nonprofit organizations, houses of worship, chartered nonpublic schools, and licensed preschools at risk of terrorism, in accordance with the following:
- i. An eligible nonprofit organization is a corporation, association, group, institution, society, or other organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the "Internal Revenue Code (IRC) of 1986," 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3), as amended; AND possesses active filing status (Corporation for Nonprofit) with Ohio Secretary of State.
 - ii. An eligible house of worship is a building or place set apart for and devoted to the holding of religious services or exercises or public worship; a church, chapel, synagogue, mosque, etc. The IRS does not require certain organizations such as churches, synagogues, and mosques to apply for and receive recognition of exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the IRC. Such organizations are automatically exempt if they meet the requirements of section 501(c)(3). As such, houses of worship are required to state they meet the requirements of section 501(c)(3) on the Investment Justification form along affiliation with a recognized religion.
 - iii. An eligible chartered nonpublic school is a private school that holds a valid charter issued by the state board of education, maintains compliance with the Operating Standards for Ohio's Schools, and possesses an IRN (Information Retrieval Number) with Ohio Department of Education.
 - iv. An eligible preschool is actively licensed by the Ohio Department of Education and possesses an IRN (Information Retrieval Number) with Ohio Department of Education.
- B. An application submitted by an otherwise eligible organization may be deemed ineligible when the person submitting the application is not: 1) a current employee/agent of the organization and 2) duly authorized to apply for an award on behalf of the organization at the time of application.
- C. All applicants and OSG recipients must follow local, state and federal laws. OSG recipients must follow all applicable requirements of state and local building codes and regulations, including plan approval and inspections when installing physical enhancement security improvements.

IV. Eligible Security Improvements

- A. All security improvements described in the application must:
- i. Be for the location the organization occupies at the time of application
 - ii. Be consistent with the objective of the program and address a risk, threat, or vulnerability detailed in the vulnerability assessment
 - iii. Be both feasible and effective at reducing the risks for which the project was designed
 - iv. Be able to be fully completed within the 18-month period of performance
 - v. Be able to be sustained and maintained in the absence of additional grant funding

B. Eligible Equipment

The following list outlines qualified equipment that includes physical security enhancement equipment, inspection/screening equipment, as well as equipment needed for emergency and crisis communication, management and response. The “systems” detailed below shall make allowance for installation of all components necessary for the system to properly function and address the vulnerability identified.

- i. Camera-based security systems, alarm systems, and standalone sensors designed to detect access violations or intrusions using sensors such as door/window switches, motion sensors, acoustic sensors, seismic, and thermal sensors
- ii. Access control systems, locking devices and entry systems for control of physical access to facilities, including:
 1. Reinforced doors and gates with increased resistance to external impact
 2. Personnel identification systems for positive identification of personnel as a prerequisite for entering restricted areas or accessing information systems (such as badging)
 3. Fencing, bollards, or obstacles designed to channel or halt pedestrian or vehicle-borne traffic in order to protect a physical asset or facility (this does not include landscaping)
 4. Vehicle identification including decals or other transponder devices for vehicles owned by staff, members, visitors, etc.
- iii. Fixed high-intensity lighting for improved visibility in areas such as building perimeters and surveillance zones; ODOT Line of Sight security needs
- iv. Blast protection/Reinforcement systems to mitigate damage from blasts, shocks, or impacts, such as column and surface wraps, wall coverings, breakage/shatter resistant glass, window wraps, deflection shields, and blast resistant trash receptacles
- v. Portable X-Ray systems for use in search and screening operations, as well as hand-held or fixed package and personnel screening systems such as walk-through magnetometers and conveyor-belt x-ray systems used to screen personnel and packages for hazardous materials/devices
- vi. Emergency and crisis communication systems including radios, emergency notification and warning systems, and public address systems
- vii. Trauma and crisis response equipment requisite for an allowable security-related training

C. Contracted Security, including

- i. School Resource Officers contracted, in accordance with Section 3313.951 ORC, to provide special duty services in a school setting to create or maintain a safe, secure, and orderly environment. A resource officer may include a special duty police officer, off-duty police officer, deputy sheriff, or other peace officer of the applicable local law enforcement agency in which the chartered nonpublic school or ODE licensed preschool is located or qualifying personnel of an accredited local law enforcement agency for any jurisdiction in this state.
- ii. Special duty police officers
- iii. A licensed private investigative or security company utilizing security guards with current and valid registrations.

D. Training

- i. Attendance/Instructor fees, and associated materials, supplies, and equipment costs for security related training courses and programs regarding the protection of critical infrastructure and key resources, physical and cyber security, target hardening, or terrorism awareness or preparedness.
- ii. Vendor supplied training on allowable equipment, if not included in price of installation

V. Ineligible Investments

Do not include the following in the application for funding, as the investment will be disqualified from consideration:

- i. Indirect or pre-award costs, including development of vulnerability assessments or application materials
- ii. Grant management including salaries, overtime, or backfill for regular staff
- iii. Grant administration costs including organizational operating expenses, general use expenditures
- iv. Maintenance costs not included with initial purchase of equipment
- v. Ongoing sustainment, and monitoring subscription costs
- vi. Ongoing or monthly internet subscription bills
- vii. Fire arms, ammunition, weapons, or physical self-defense training of any kind
- viii. Personnel and travel costs associated with an approved training
- ix. Stand-alone fire suppression equipment including fire extinguishers, smoke/CO2 detectors
- x. Construction of a panic room or vestibule
- xi. Window treatments, shades, or darkening film on windows
- xii. Generators
- xiii. Drones / Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

VI. Application Submission Information

Applicants must complete and upload the OSG Vulnerability Assessment Worksheet with their online application. These two components constitute a complete application package and are both available on the OSG website: [State of Ohio Security Grant \(OSG\) | Emergency Management Agency](#)

VII. Key Dates

- A. Application available on September 5, 2025
Funding Application Instructions and required documents are available at the [OSG Website](#) . Application documents will not be mailed. It is the responsibility of the applying organization to obtain the documents from the website. Documents posted on the website are not to be modified from their original format.
- B. Webinars for Interested Applicants will take place on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 and Tuesday, September 30, 2025. Webinar details are posted to the [OSG Website](#). If you have any application questions you would like addressed, please send your questions to OSG@dps.ohio.gov in advance of the webinar.
- C. Application Submission Deadline to Ohio EMA: October 24, 2025, no later than 12:00 pm.
Submit applications via the application link on the OSG Website . All applications submitted after the deadline will be disqualified.

VIII. Application Review Information

- A. Application information is voluntarily submitted to a public office in expectation of protection from disclosure as provided by section 149.433 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- B. All complete and eligible applications will be scored by a committee of reviewers selected by the Ohio EMA Grants Branch. Applicants will be selected until the available funding is exhausted.
- C. Notification of awards will tentatively be made by mid-January 2026.