
**Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) /
Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)**

**State Fiscal Year 2027 – State of Ohio Security Grant (OSG)
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

Section 1: Program Description

Issued By: Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS)
Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)

Funding Opportunity: State Fiscal Year 2027 State of Ohio Security Grant (SFY27 OSG)

Authorizing Authority: House Bill 96 of the 136th General Assembly

Application Deadline: May 15, 2026, at 4:00 pm EST

Period of Performance: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028

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.

For purposes of this program, “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, or anyone who is or may in the future be associated with it, as well as their families; or
- Influence the policy of the nonprofit organization, house of worship, chartered nonpublic school, or ODE licensed preschool; or
- Affect the conduct of the nonprofit organization, house of worship, chartered nonpublic school, or ODE licensed preschool.

Objective

The objective of the OSG program is to mitigate security vulnerabilities at eligible organizations, thereby reducing the risk and potential impact of terrorist threats and attacks.

Section 2: Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicant Types

The following organization types are eligible to apply, provided they are at risk of terrorism as defined in Section 1.

Nonprofit Organizations

An eligible nonprofit organization must:

- Be exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)), as amended; AND
- Possess active filing status as a Corporation for Nonprofit with the Ohio Secretary of State.

Houses of Worship

An eligible house of worship is a building or place set apart for and devoted to the holding of religious services, exercises, or public worship (e.g., church, chapel, synagogue, mosque). The IRS does not require certain religious organizations to apply for recognition of exemption under Section 501(c)(3); such organizations are automatically exempt if they meet the requirements of that section. Houses of worship must state on the Investment Justification form that they meet the requirements of Section 501(c)(3) and indicate their affiliation with a recognized religion.

Chartered Nonpublic Schools

An eligible chartered nonpublic school must:

- Hold a valid charter issued by the State Board of Education;
- Maintain compliance with the Operating Standards for Ohio's Schools; and
- Possess an Information Retrieval Number (IRN) with the Ohio Department of Education.

Licensed Preschools

An eligible preschool must:

- Be actively licensed by the Ohio Department of Education; and
- Possess an Information Retrieval Number (IRN) with the Ohio Department of Education.

Section 3: Eligible Security Investments

Eligible Investments

The following table identifies eligible security categories and descriptions. The “systems” listed below shall include all components necessary for the system to properly function and address the identified vulnerability.

Equipment Category	Description
Access Control	Locking devices and entry systems, including reinforced doors and gates, personnel identification and badging systems, inspection and screening equipment, and vehicle identification devices (decals and transponders).
Bollards	Fixed or removable obstacles designed to channel or stop pedestrian or vehicle traffic to protect a facility's perimeter. Landscaping is not eligible.
Communications	Radios, emergency notification and warning systems, and public address systems.
Contracted Security	School Resource Officers (per O.R.C. § 3313.951), special duty police officers, and licensed private security or investigative companies with currently registered security guards.
Fencing	Exterior perimeter fencing systems designed to restrict unauthorized access, including gates, posts, and all components necessary for a complete, functional installation.
Lighting	Exterior and interior lighting systems that improve visibility along building perimeters, parking areas, surveillance zones, and interior sections to deter and detect unauthorized activity.
Line of Sight Security	Physical barrier walls installed along a facility's perimeter adjacent to public roadways to obstruct sightlines, reduce target visibility, and limit exposure to vehicle-borne or standoff threats.
Security Cameras/ Alarm Systems	Camera systems, alarm systems, and standalone sensors — including door/window switches, motion sensors, and acoustic, seismic, and thermal sensors — designed to detect unauthorized access or intrusions.
Training	Training courses covering critical infrastructure protection, physical and cyber security, target hardening, or terrorism awareness and preparedness.
Windows/Doors	Windows and doors with integrated security features, including impact-resistant glass, reinforced frames, security film, and hardware upgrades designed to prevent or delay unauthorized entry.

Section 4: Ineligible Security Investments

Ineligible Investments

The following investments are unallowable under the Ohio Security Grant Program:

- Indirect or pre-award costs, including development of vulnerability assessments or application materials
- Grant management including salaries, overtime, or backfill for regular staff
- Grant administration costs including organizational operating expenses and general-use expenditures
- Maintenance costs not included with the initial purchase of equipment
- Ongoing sustainment and monitoring subscription costs
- Ongoing or monthly internet subscription fees
- Firearms, ammunition, weapons, or physical self-defense training of any kind
- Personnel and travel costs associated with an approved training
- Stand-alone fire suppression equipment (fire extinguishers, smoke/CO₂ detectors)
- Construction of a panic room or vestibule
- Window treatments, shades, or darkening film on windows
- Generators
- Drones / Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)
- Costs for any activity performed prior to receiving and award.

Section 5: Application Process

Application Checklist

Please review the following points in the application process:

Vulnerability Assessment

All applicants must submit a Vulnerability Assessment with their application.

- Applicants may submit a previously completed Vulnerability Assessment (not older than April 6, 2023).
- The Vulnerability Assessment should be completed by an individual with security, law enforcement, or military experience.
- The Vulnerability Assessment format can be in the assessor's established format or can be in the form supplied by Ohio EMA on the Ohio Security Grant webpage.
- Please name the OSG Vulnerability Assessment Worksheet file: *"SFY26OSG VA Worksheet - Name of applying organization."*
- Do not attach any non-required additional documentation as it will not be considered in the evaluation of your application.

Online Application

All applicants must submit their application online via the weblink on the Ohio Security Grant webpage.

- The Ohio Security Grants webpage is located at <https://ema.ohio.gov/prepare-respond/preparedness-grants/preparedness-grant-programs/preparedness-grants-osg>
- Applications are due by 4:00 pm on Friday May 15, 2026. Any applications submitted after that time will not be considered.
- Due to limited funding and the overwhelming volume of applications in previous years, each organization will be limited to one application submission for the SFY2027 Ohio Security Grant Program.
- There will be two live webinars conducted by Ohio EMA to review the application process. Registration links will be posted on the Ohio Security Grant webpage.
- Any questions regarding the application process should be emailed to OSG@dps.ohio.gov. Please format the reference line in the email as "SFY27 OSG Application – Your Organization Name".

Section 6: Award Information

NOTE: All applicants will be notified of their award status by June 30, 2026.

General Requirements

All awards for security improvements described in the application must:

- Be for the location the organization occupies at the time of application; and
- Be consistent with the program objective and address a risk, threat, or vulnerability identified in the vulnerability assessment; and
- Be both feasible and effective at reducing the risks for which the project was designed; and
- Be fully completed within the 24-month period of performance.

Award Decisions and Funding Availability

All decisions regarding this grant are in the sole discretion of Ohio EMA and are not subject to appeal or review. Grant awards contemplated by this solicitation are subject to a 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 certification of fund availability as required by O.R.C. § 126.07. Ohio EMA may suspend or terminate this solicitation if the General Assembly fails to appropriate funds for any grant award.

Award Limits

An eligible organization may apply for one site, with a maximum funding request of \$125,000 for eligible security improvements.

Site Definition

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 may be included in the site. For example, a building that functions as a house of worship and a separate building that functions as a chartered nonpublic school at the same physical address may be included in the application. It should be noted that a vulnerability assessment should include any buildings at the site that will be using grant funding for security improvements.

Reimbursement and Advance Disbursement

The Ohio Security Grant (OSG) is a reimbursement grant. However, grantees will receive a 10% advance disbursement at the beginning of the performance period. Final reimbursement is issued 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 Ohio Security Grant (OSG).