



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

State Fiscal Year 2026 - State of Ohio Security Grant

<https://ema.ohio.gov/prepare-respond/preparedness-grants/preparedness-grant-programs/preparedness-grants-osg>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated 09/29/2025

1. Is my organization eligible?

- Organizations that are a house of worship, chartered nonpublic school, an Ohio Department of Education licensed preschool or exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are eligible to apply for funding. Please refer to Section III. of SFY26 Ohio Security Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for detailed explanations.

NOTE: Public elementary, middle and high schools, public libraries, public institutions of higher education and community schools are not eligible for funding under this grant.

2. What are eligible expenditures under this grant?

- Please refer to Sections IV. and V. of the NOFO. It is important to understand that this grant is for the exclusive reimbursement of security-related expenses, not to be misconstrued as safety-related expenses.

3. Are staff from Ohio EMA available to provide individual guidance to me in preparing my application?

- Due to the competitive nature of final awards, staff from Ohio EMA are not available to assist organizations in preparing their applications. Two, non-mandatory informational webinars have been scheduled and questions may be submitted in advance of these webinars. Registration is required. Please visit our website to register.

4. What are common mistakes to avoid that may result in the denial of our application?

- Missing or incomplete Vulnerability Assessment
- Weak or vague responses to the required questions
- Discrepancies between the budget narrative description and the itemized budget
- Requesting ineligible expenses (Refer to Section V. of the NOFO)
- Missing responses to the required information fields
- Missing the application deadline of 12:00PM, October 24, 2025

5. How much funding is available?

- The maximum award amount per site is \$125,000. Organizations may apply for security improvements for up to a total of 2 sites, or \$250,000 per organization.



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6. How long is funding available?

- The Performance Period for this grant is February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2028. All work must be performed and completed during this timeframe. There is a 3-month close-out period following the performance period for organizations to submit their final expenditure requests.

7. Are there any matching fund requirements?

- No. Ohio does not require cost-sharing or matching.

8. When can my organization begin our projects?

- Organizations may begin the planning phase of their project(s) at any point in time. However, organizations may not begin any performance of services or purchases of equipment until Ohio EMA receives the executed Grant Award Agreement AND Ohio EMA has approved the applicable procurement selection processes to be conducted by the organization.

It is important to note that the confirmation of payee "Remit To" information is not the executed Grant Award Agreement.

9. Can we request funds for deposits required by the contractor?

- Organizations will receive a 10% disbursement of the total awarded amount shortly after Ohio EMA receives the executed Grant Award Agreement to assist in offsetting costs incurred by the organization in implementing their project(s).

The remaining award balance, up to the amount of verifiable eligible expenses and not to exceed the total award amount, will be disbursed upon demonstrated completion of the project

10. How long is my Vulnerability Assessment valid?

- Vulnerability Assessments should generally be conducted at a minimum every three (3) years. Vulnerability Assessments should be relevant to the organization's current situation at the time of application.



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11. Will this grant be subject to the same requirements as a federal grant?

- This is a state of Ohio-funded grant. No federal funds are involved. UEI numbers are not required for applicants.

12. Our chartered non-public school is housed on the same campus as our church with the same physical street address. Should the school apply, the church apply or both?

- The entity will submit one application. However, it is up to the entity to decide if it will submit one project site (both buildings combined) or two project sites (one church and one school).

If more than one entity is housed at the same street address, each entity should conduct its own Vulnerability Assessment and submit its own application.

13. Can we replace our existing security system?

- Organizations may apply to replace an existing security system as long as this is a vulnerability identified in the Vulnerability Assessment submitted with the application.

14. How do we save our online application if we are not quite ready to submit yet?

- Organizations are encouraged to download the Investment Justification Template (Application) in an Excel format from the OSG website to assist in preparing the SFY26 OSG application which can be saved to a computer while in progress. Organizations can copy and paste their information from the template to the online application form at the time of submission.

In addition, Ohio EMA recommends organizations to expand all active sections of their online application, right click on the page and select "Print" to retain a copy of their application for their records.

15. Do we need to provide estimates or proposals for work required?

- The only accepted documentation to be submitted with the application is the Vulnerability Assessment.

Organizations may obtain general pricing estimates in preparation of their application budgets. However, organizations are not to enter into any formal agreements for work to be performed in anticipation of being awarded grant funding. Ohio EMA will provide procurement guidance upon the



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

execution of an awarded grant agreement.

16. Can initial maintenance be included in the application?

- Yes, through the end of the performance period of the grant.

17. What qualifies as a vendor?

- A vendor is a for-profit entity who provides goods and/or services to customers. Vendors or contractors who assist organizations with developing applications for this grant will be disqualified from providing goods and/or services associated with awards.

18. Can the grant cover security personnel if we already have an existing security firm?

- Yes, as long as the existing security firm services were covered by a previous OSG grant award. Otherwise, any contract for security services to be paid for by the SFY26 Ohio Security Grant will be subject to procurement review by Ohio EMA.
- Jurisdictional considerations for off-duty law enforcement officers are handled on a case-by-case basis upon award.

19. Will partial requests be awarded?

- Historically, Ohio EMA receives significantly more applications than funding that is available. Generally, full application amounts are awarded until funds are depleted. Occasionally, partial awards are made.

20. Our vulnerabilities exceed \$125,000. Should we submit the total amount of our vulnerabilities or less than \$125,000?

- Generally, organizations should submit proposed projects up to the total maximum amount available per organization per site. Organizations will not be funded in excess of \$125,000 per site or maximum of \$250,000 (\$125,000 x 2 sites). Any project that the organization implements that costs greater than the \$125,000 per site will become the financial responsibility of the organization.



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21. Our organization has received other grants from non-Ohio EMA partners. Are we still eligible for this grant?

- Yes. However, organizations may not submit for reimbursement through Ohio EMA for expenditures already covered by other grant funding sources.

22. How does SFY26 State of Ohio Innovative Community-Public Safety Partnerships (ICPSP) differ from SFY26 OSG Online Application?

- This is for submission of a project that is not the standard facility security improvements under the regular OSG program. You would not use this to apply for typical security upgrades (fencing/doors/windows/bollards/etc.)