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Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP): How to Apply and Win

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Presented by Ashley Schultz and Meghan Jacobsen • Grants Office, LLC

Welcome and Introductions

Ashley Schultz:
Hello everyone, and welcome to our event. My name is Ashley Schultz. I'm the Manager of Community Engagement here at Grants Office. Today we're going to be discussing the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, or NSGP, which offers $275 million each year to U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack.

The folks here at Grants Office are actually really excited about today's session. We love telling folks about NSGP, but this is also the first in a series of events that we're hosting in 2026 that focus on a specific grant program. As you well know, if you've come to our webinars in the past, we do events throughout the year on grant-seeking advice in general — how to position your organization broadly for transportation funding, cybersecurity, or school safety funding. The purpose with today's event and this new event type is to get far more granular on our information and far more specific on our grant-seeking advice, by fully focusing the full 30 minutes on just one grant that's relevant for this time of year.

First and foremost, we really hope you like today's event, and I encourage you to send any feedback that you may have on this new style to us. You can reach us at education@grantsoffice.com. I also encourage you, if you're in the audience representing a 501(c)(3) nonprofit today, to consider who else among your peers may benefit from today's session and then pass along the recording to them. As Meghan is going to detail in a few minutes, this is a very competitive grant program, and the more folks who can learn about NSGP and secure grant funding for themselves and their site security measures, the better.

Housekeeping

Ashley Schultz:
Before we get started, I've just got two really fast housekeeping items for you. First and foremost, you can ask questions at any time today using the Q&A interface in the bottom right-hand corner of your screen. We're going to hold all questions until the end, but please feel free to add them as you come across them during today's session.

Also, know that this presentation is being recorded. The recording is going to be available for download at the Grants Office website starting tomorrow. You'll also see the PowerPoint slides there tomorrow, and also for the very first time, we are offering all attendees a step-by-step application workbook specifically for the NSGP grant. We'll talk about that workbook in a little bit, but I'm just letting you know that as Meghan starts talking about the workbook and what's inside it: in order to download that workbook, it's going to be there on the website tomorrow, in the same spot as the slides and the session recording.

Today's Speaker and Agenda

Ashley Schultz:
Again, today we're talking about the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. I'm joined today by Meghan Jacobsen, who is our in-house expert on this program. Meghan has seriously helped dozens of organizations just like yourself navigate the ins and outs of NSGP. I personally have had the joy of listening to her on some of those calls, and I can attest: she is incredibly knowledgeable, incredibly creative, and very, very committed to helping nonprofits get across the finish line with this relatively challenging grant program. If you're a regular reader of our magazine, FUNDED, you will recognize Meghan from her article on the cover of February's issue, which is again all about NSGP.

In short, Meghan has a wealth of grants experience, a wealth of information on this program, and I think you're going to learn a lot from her today.

Here's a quick run-through of our agenda over the next 30 minutes. Once I pass things over to Meghan, she's going to run through a high-level introduction of the Nonprofit Security Grant Program — what is it, what does it help you pay for, who can go after it. We really want to make sure, before we dive into the nitty-gritty details, that this grant is right for you. After we've clarified those hurdles, Meghan's got a load of information on how to prepare a competitive NSGP proposal. She'll talk about registration numbers you need, security assessments, investment justifications, and a whole lot more in that section. We'll end with a quick overview on some additional services Grants Office can provide you on this grant program — whether you need someone to come in and review a draft of your proposal, or maybe you want someone to actually put pen to paper on your behalf and write the narrative for you. With that, I'm going to pass things over to the very capable hands of Meghan to get us started. Meghan?

Program Overview

Meghan Jacobsen:
Thanks, Ashley, and thank you everybody for joining us today. I'm going to dive right in and just talk about what exactly the Nonprofit Security Grant Program is. It's commonly referred to as NSGP, so you will hear me say NSGP a lot through this, just because it's shorter and easier.

Right here you see a snapshot of the program. NSGP essentially funds physical and cybersecurity initiatives specifically for nonprofit organizations that are deemed to be at a higher risk of terrorist or extremist attacks due to the organization's beliefs, mission, or ideology. It's really important right off the bat to remember that this, in the federal government's viewpoint, is an anti-terrorism grant. While the allowable expenses under this grant are definitely going to help prevent and protect against crime, this grant is not crime-focused — it is terrorism- or extremism-focused. It's important to remember this when drafting your proposal, because you really want to draft it through that lens.

NSGP is funded by FEMA, which is under the Department of Homeland Security. It is a pass-through grant. Very quickly, that just means that the funds get passed down to states, and the states administer those grants to local applicants such as nonprofits like yourself. Because of that, states determine their own deadlines, so there is not a set deadline for this particular grant. However, it is usually a spring grant — which leads me into talking about what might be the elephant in the room, which is the DHS hold in funding that's going on in Congress right now and the partial shutdown.

Yes, it may affect when FEMA releases 2026 guidance, but not all states necessarily follow that as far as their own deadlines. For example, right now Texas NSGP is open with a deadline of March 13, and then they will wait until FEMA releases 2026 guidance to actually have people hand in the required application components. Some states will open earlier than the federal government, some states will open after. That's why we're doing this webinar now — because springtime is usually the time to get ready for this grant, so right now is a very good time.

Funding Streams and Award Amounts

Meghan Jacobsen:
Let's talk about funding a little bit under NSGP. As stated, it's a pass-through grant. To dive a little bit deeper into that: when FEMA opens it, they will have a deadline that is not the nonprofits' deadline, because nonprofits do not apply directly to FEMA — they apply to their states. The FEMA deadline is for states to apply for their allocation. Once those states have received the funds, they can sub-award it to nonprofits within that state.

There are two different funding streams under NSGP. The first is NSGP-UA, which stands for Urban Area — it's for applicants that are physically located within a designated urban area. Then there's NSGP-S, or State, which is for all areas outside of those designated urban areas. When completing the application form, you will be asked to designate which program you're applying under, so you'll want to check with your State Administrative Agency to see what those boundaries are and what is considered an urban area.

NSGP will fund up to $200,000 per site and up to three sites. Those sites must have unique addresses. If you are in a building where, say, you have multiple nonprofits working out of it, only one nonprofit can

apply. Essentially, if you are applying for three sites, you can get up to $600,000 in funding. The great news is that there's no match requirement — NSGP will fund 100% up to the funding limit.

I want to talk about that really quickly, because it is definitely recommended that you do not exceed the funding limit on your NSGP application. That could just give pause: if you have a security project that's going to cost $280,000, they may say, “Well, how are you going to fund the rest of it?” Whereas maybe a smarter way to leverage this grant is to plan your security project in phases — with Phase 1 being this 2026 NSGP cycle, and then possibly looking at more phases in the future to complete your security project.

What Can Be Funded

Meghan Jacobsen:
Here are some examples of what can be funded under NSGP. You can use NSGP funds for security technology, cybersecurity initiatives, contract security personnel, security planning and training, among other things. There's a full Authorized Equipment List, also known as an AEL, and that can be found on page 43 of FEMA's 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity, which is also the application guidance. In the free workbook that Ashley referenced, there will also be the entire list of allowable equipment.

This just gives you an idea. One thing I do get asked a lot — that is also covered, especially under number four, physical protective measures — is that it's not just security technology but also things like parking lot bollards or bullet-resistant film for windows. So things like that are covered under NSGP.

Determining Eligibility

Organizational Eligibility Requirements

Meghan Jacobsen:
Let's talk about how to determine if NSGP is a good fit for your organization. First off, you are required to be a nonprofit with 501(c)(3) status, or a house of worship, which is not required to have that status by the IRS. So if you are a house of worship — a church, for example — you are not required to have that status.

You must be able to demonstrate a high risk of domestic or foreign terrorism or extremism threats due to your organization's belief, mission, or ideology. The FBI's definition of terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, a civilian population, or a segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives. Further, the FBI defines domestic violent extremism as activities by individuals operating within the U.S., without foreign direction, aiming to achieve social or political goals through unlawful force or violence.

Given the current social and political climate that's happening in this country right now, there are a lot of topics that are like a hotbed for unrest and potential violence. This can be anything from issues surrounding religion, abortion, immigration, or LGBTQ rights. It doesn't matter what side of the coin you're on — if your organization has beliefs or an ideology that could potentially fall under one of those controversial issues, that is grounds for justifying how you are at a heightened risk.

Finally, it's really important to note that you must currently be occupying the site for which you are applying at the time that you submit the application. Buildings that you haven't yet moved into or are under construction are not eligible. That doesn't mean you can never apply, because this grant comes up once a year. It just means that you need to wait until another fiscal year when you are fully in that building and operating out of that building.

Eligible and Ineligible Organization Types

Meghan Jacobsen:
This just gives you an idea of the types of organizations that are eligible and the types that are not eligible. You'll see that the top three I put in bolded letters, and that's because those are the top recipients of this grant. It doesn't mean that if you're a museum or a community center you shouldn't apply — it's just letting you know that the top recipients tend to be houses of worship, private schools, and healthcare facilities.

To provide a little bit more clarity, FEMA has also provided a list of who is not eligible to apply. You're going to notice that on the eligible-to-apply list, it's always going to be nonprofit organizations. You must be a nonprofit — that's the basis. Any for-profit hospitals or for-profit schools cannot apply. Further, any governmental agency cannot apply, and that includes public schools. Even further: if there is a nonprofit foundation for, let's say, a fire department or a library, they cannot apply either. It really is to protect physical buildings. Even if a nonprofit foundation is for a hospital, that's still going to ultimately fund a governmental agency, so they are not eligible. It's important to look at that, too.

Free NSGP Application Workbook

Meghan Jacobsen:
Ashley talked about, and I have talked about a little bit — tomorrow this free resource will be available: an NSGP application workbook. We really provided it as a resource to help you collect information, get organized, develop a plan, and ultimately help you get all of your ducks in a row so that when the application opens, you're ready to go. It's very, very thorough and it follows the 2025 guidance. The 2026 guidance has not yet been released; however, we anticipate that it won't change too much from 2025.

Preparing a Competitive Application

Meghan Jacobsen:
Let's talk about how to prepare a competitive NSGP application. You're going to see here the required components of an NSGP application. There may be other requirements — it's going to vary by state — but this is the bare bones of what you need to have to apply. It is vital that you read through your state's guidance, because some states will require you to submit more forms or to submit financials or audit statements. It just varies by state.

The vulnerability assessment, obtaining a UEI number, and your mission statement are all things that can be prepared ahead of time. The Investment Justification is the actual application form that you will submit alongside the vulnerability assessment and the mission statement. The UEI number will be a piece of information that you'll need to provide in the Investment Justification. One caveat: some states do not require you to provide this number right off the bat, but you do need to have it. If you are awarded, before you can receive any funds, I always recommend people just to get it ahead of time. It's pretty simple. We'll dive a little bit deeper into how to do that a little bit later on.

The Vulnerability Assessment

Meghan Jacobsen:
Let's take a minute to talk about the vulnerability assessment. The vulnerability assessment is the foundation of your NSGP application. This assessment is a thorough inspection of your property and systems to identify where security weaknesses lie and what needs to be implemented to mitigate those vulnerabilities. These findings should be recorded in a written report that you will have to submit along with your application.

This report is extremely important because everything requested in the Investment Justification must tie back to the findings in this report. Requesting things that are not in the assessment — even if they are allowable costs — may result in your application getting denied. So when you do have this assessment, it's important that you be involved in it as well. Use this assessment to plan your project and gather quotes to develop your budget. It can also be used to prioritize in the event that the cost does exceed the funding maximum and you need to do it in phases.

I always recommend having law enforcement or a security expert conduct this assessment, but if that's not possible, the assessment can be done internally within the organization. There is a resource through the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, also known as CISA. They have a website that will walk you through an assessment. There will be a link to that in the workbook that we provide.

There's no set template — that's a question I get asked a lot. There is no set template for a vulnerability assessment, though some states have in the past provided a template. If there is a template provided, I

definitely recommend that you use it. Even if you do an internal vulnerability assessment, if you have the opportunity to have law enforcement or some security expert look it over and just sign off on it, that always goes a long way in strengthening your application, even though it's not necessarily required.

The UEI Number

Meghan Jacobsen:
The Unique Entity Identifier number, also known as the UEI number — you will need to register your organization with SAM.gov to receive this number. It is required any time that you're doing business with the federal government or receiving funds from the federal government. Registering with SAM.gov is 100% free, so be wary of scams — they are out there — that try to charge you money to get this number or to keep it updated. The only way to obtain this number is through SAM.gov. Once you've registered and have your number, just keep in mind that you do need to update it annually to keep it active.

The Mission Statement

Meghan Jacobsen:
Finally, a mission statement typed out on official letterhead is required as part of the application as a separate attachment. Only the mission statement should be on this document — refrain from giving any other information on the document. Just the mission statement on letterhead will suffice, because ultimately what this document is used for is for the funder, the reader of your application, to determine what type of organization you are.

Drafting a Compelling Investment Justification

Meghan Jacobsen:
Let's talk about drafting a compelling Investment Justification. I first want to point out that the Investment Justification — I'm going to from here on out refer to as the IJ, just because it's shorter and easier on my tongue — is a fairly straightforward form. But if you can start early on it, you should, because while it is straightforward, it does still take some thought to develop a very compelling Investment Justification and to have the right things in there that the funder and the reader are looking for.

Keep in mind that DHS releases a new form annually, but the questions rarely change. Feel free to begin drafting on the 2025 form, and more than likely you'll be able to just copy and paste everything onto the new form once it's released. It's a good idea to give yourself some time — give yourself some rounds on this one.

Demonstrating Heightened Risk

Meghan Jacobsen:
The Investment Justification will ask for information that shows your organization to be at a higher risk of terrorism or extremism. You want to use statistics and reputable sources to back up those claims. If you have received direct threats, be specific and back it up with documentation such as police reports. If you haven't received a direct threat, that doesn't mean you're not eligible to receive this grant. Use reputable sources and statistics to show the heightened risk to similar organizations as yours.

For example, if you're a synagogue, a good statistic to cite would be that according to the FBI, 69% of all religiously motivated attacks target the Jewish community — which, in and of itself, even if your synagogue has never received a threat, puts you at a higher risk.

Stay on Topic and Use the Right Lens

Meghan Jacobsen:
As I stated previously, draft your IJ through the lens of terrorism and extremism, not crime. I have reviewed multiple of these applications, and that's something that I see very commonly: people think they list all the crime that's happened, if it's been a break-in or a domestic dispute on their property. Those are all valid concerns for your organization, but it's just not the focus of this particular grant. Really just focus in on your heightened risk of terrorism and extremism.

Be clear and concise in your answers. I've read countless of these IJs, and one thing I notice repeatedly is the writing tends to go off-topic or maybe doesn't address the question at all. Sometimes the way that the questions are worded can be a little bit confusing, so just make sure that you're really understanding what the question is asking of you and draft your answer accordingly. Whatever you do, stay on topic. If it's asking about the threats, only focus on the threats. If it's asking about the vulnerabilities, only focus on the vulnerabilities.

Finally, I've said it before, but it's worth restating: really use that vulnerability assessment as the foundation for your IJ. The vulnerability assessment is going to really guide you to answer what your vulnerabilities are, and it will also guide you on the project — which is specifically called the Facility Hardening section of the Investment Justification, but it's the equivalent of your budget and your budget justification. Again, it all has to tie back to what's in that vulnerability assessment.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

1. Uploading the Investment Justification Incorrectly

Meghan Jacobsen:
Now I just want to flip over to some common mistakes I've seen when submitting an NSGP application. First and foremost, make sure you are uploading the Investment Justification correctly. It's essential that you check your state's guidance on this, as it varies from state to state.

The IJ must be uploaded as a fillable PDF document — it must be fillable. I've seen people get rejected just because it was not fillable. Some states will require you to register beforehand and upload documents directly onto their portal; other states require that the documents be emailed. Many states have a required naming convention for the file, so it's important that you follow that naming convention exactly. New York, for example, requires nonprofits to go through a pre-approval process, and that takes a few weeks. It's really important that you just check with your state — don't always just look at the federal guidance, but check with your state, because states can really vary on what they require for this grant.

2. Submitting an Incomplete Application Package

Meghan Jacobsen:
Make sure you submit all the components of the application together. The basics: you need the Investment Justification, the vulnerability assessment, and the mission statement. If you are applying for more than one site, you need to submit three separate Investment Justifications, three separate vulnerability assessments, and three separate mission statements. They are treated as separate applications, even though they're under the same organization.

Again, check with your state's guidance. Some states will require further forms such as financial statements, et cetera. Make sure that you know what your state specifically wants on top of those three components.

3. Not Reading the Application Guidance

Meghan Jacobsen:
Always read the guidance before applying for any grant, but specifically for NSGP. Make sure you understand the terms and the requirements of the grant — not only for applying for it, but for receiving it. Make sure it's a good fit. It's always just a good way to be. Always make sure you know what you're getting into beforehand, and especially make sure that you understand what's allowable and what's not allowable under the grant. For example, you cannot use the grant to pay the salary of security

personnel, but you can use the grant to hire contract security personnel. That is really important — that you know the difference.

4. Starting Too Late

Meghan Jacobsen:
Finally, I have seen so many times organizations just start too late and completely miss the window. Unfortunately, if you have not had a vulnerability assessment done and you don't have your UEI number, and that application window opens, you are way behind the ball. This is definitely a grant you want to apply for ahead of time. Get your vulnerability assessment long before the grant even opens — that's ideal. It's going to help you a long way. You want to at least have that vulnerability assessment done prior to the window opening.

If you want to do more than that, I definitely recommend at least starting a rough draft of the Investment Justification, including gathering sources and statistics — that can be a little bit harder once you actually sit down to write to figure out what to write. Really give yourself as wide of a window as you can, because keep in mind, especially in the last year, we have seen some of these application windows be as short as two weeks. If you're starting from scratch with only two weeks to go, it's an uphill battle that's really not likely to happen for you. So definitely start early.

A Final Note: Don't Be Discouraged

Meghan Jacobsen:
I want to give one final note before I pass things back over to Ashley. If for some reason you apply and are denied, don't be discouraged — apply again. This is a competitive grant. Take some time to regroup if you're denied. Look over your application and figure out how it can be improved for the next cycle. We at Grants Office are also here to help you do that, and Ashley will talk more about that. But don't be discouraged from applying again.

I have worked with a lot of churches, and I have heard from a few of them talk about how they had to apply a couple of years in a row to be approved for these funds. So just don't be discouraged. Keep trying. That's kind of the world of grants — you're going to get denials, but you definitely won't get funded if you don't apply. I encourage you to keep trying if you are denied. With that, I'll give this over to Ashley to talk about how Grants Office can help.

Grants Office Services

Ashley Schultz:
Thank you so much, Meghan, for that excellent information. I have quite a few questions in our Q&A, so I'm just going to talk for a few seconds to let you have a chance to grab a glass of water, and then we'll

jump right into our Q&A. Again, folks, if you have more questions, please look to that bottom right-hand corner of your screen to drop them into the chat.

On the Federal Funding Landscape

Ashley Schultz:
First off, I want to call attention to Meghan's comment earlier about the federal budget and the many folks who have reached out to us in the last two to three months trying to generally understand what is happening at the U.S. federal level. While we have seen state budgets and foundation budgets remain relatively stable and reliable forms of funding, we are seeing quite a bit of discourse surrounding how and when the U.S. federal government provides grants. There's lots of conflicting information out there about grants coming from the White House, from Congress, cabinet members, federal agency heads, et cetera. It can be really challenging to keep track of.

If you haven't already done so, I definitely encourage you to check out our website under the Guidance for Grant Seekers tab. On that site, we have a series of 5-minute videos on the U.S. federal budget — what has passed, what hasn't passed, how much funding is available, what changes we are seeing in the grant funding landscape. All those videos are available to you on demand, and are completely free on our website right now.

Grant Writing and Editing Services

Ashley Schultz:
I also want to call out Grants Office's grant writing and editing services that I referred to at the beginning of today's session. The team here, folks just like Meghan, has a 25-year reputation across both the U.S. and Canada in proposal development work. We help organizations just like yourself plan out and then articulate your projects in a way that we know is going to speak to funders' goals and objectives.

If you followed along with today's session and you plan to apply for the NSGP grant, but you feel like you're going to need some help to get across that finish line, please don't hesitate to reach out. We have full proposal development and writing services. What this means for NSGP is that you come to us with your security assessment done. We are not law enforcement professionals; we cannot do a site survey for you. But if you come with that security assessment done and a general overview of your project list and your budget, we will get you connected with a grant writer who can then translate all those ideas into a compelling narrative that you can then submit to your state agency. If you are writing the proposal yourself but you just want an extra set of eyes on your draft — making sure you've dotted your i's and crossed your t's — we also offer proposal editing services at 25% of the cost of full grant writing.

How Working with Grants Office Looks

Ashley Schultz:
If you're interested in exploring our support, the first step is going to be to contact us at grantwriting@grantsoffice.com. You want to come to that email having already read and worked through the questions in that workbook that Meghan and I mentioned earlier. You don't need to have full sentences or beautiful prose for all the prompts in that workbook, but we do ask that you've given each component of your project a fair deal of thought — you know, what sites are going to be included, what do you need to purchase for those sites, what's all that going to cost, what evidence do you have to illustrate that your organization is at risk of a terrorist attack — those types of things.

From there, you'll meet with Meghan and discuss your project goals and your development needs. If you contract with us for writing, we'll get you connected to a writer who's going to put pen to paper on your behalf. We try to make sure you have at least two opportunities to review those drafts to provide feedback, and make sure we've really captured your organization's goals and your mission correctly. As you work toward your own state's deadline, we give you all the application materials so you can go upload them into that specific Investment Justification template and click submit. Again, if that's something you're interested in, please give us an email at grantwriting@grantsoffice.com to get started.

Additional Services

Ashley Schultz:
If you followed along with today's event and you don't want to apply to NSGP — maybe it's just not a good fit for you — I also want to call your attention to the other services that Grants Office offers that are available to you. We have a research and consultation service that allows you to sit down with a consultant just like Meghan to discuss your upcoming project, and then be provided with a list of state, federal, and foundation grants that would best support those initiatives. We also have project-building services that, again, allow you to sit down with a consultant and build out a competitive application to an entirely different grant program that's not NSGP. We are aware of hundreds of state, federal, and foundation grants, and can help you with any of them.

Last but certainly not least, we have our subscription service, Grants Office Communities. That's going to give you access to our database of more than 26,000 state, federal, and foundation grants so that you can do the research and project-building all on your own. You can do that inside a platform that was designed for and by us, who are grants people, so we understand the grants process and what you need inside that platform. Grants Office Communities always has a free two-week trial, so if you haven't gone over to check it out yet, I definitely encourage you to do so.

Q&A Session

Ashley Schultz:
With that, Meghan, I've got a few questions for you. Folks who are still with us — thank you for hanging out with us a few extra minutes beyond our promised 30 minutes. These were some really great questions, so I want to make sure that they have time to hear answers from Meghan.

Q1: What types of healthcare facilities are likely to receive NSGP funds?

Ashley Schultz:
Meghan, our first question came to us during the eligibility discussion. You had highlighted that healthcare facilities are more likely to receive funds. Can you clarify on what types of healthcare facilities that means? Do they have to have a religious affiliation, or have a name with a religious affiliation? And what about non-religious hospital systems? Do they have a chance of receiving funds?

Meghan Jacobsen:
Yes, absolutely. The only requirement for the healthcare facility is that they be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. I know that a lot of these grant funds go to religious organizations, mostly just due to the recent uptick in extremism and violence toward the Jewish community, the Islamic community, and active shooter situations at churches — but this is not a religious-based grant. You do not need to have any religious affiliation. It's not going to up your chance of getting funded if you do have a religious affiliation. You just need to have that 501(c)(3) and have a justification for how you are at a greater risk. Obviously, with healthcare facilities and violence against healthcare workers, yes, you are at a greater risk.

I know that it's hard — a lot of people get tripped up with the word “terrorism.” They don't think of it in light of, “How would a hospital be affected?” But if you think about active shooters, et cetera, those are forms of extremism. So yes, I would not be deterred if you do not have a religious affiliation — you are still absolutely eligible.

Q2: Does the vulnerability assessment have to be both physical and digital?

Ashley Schultz:
Great, thank you. I have two questions here related to the vulnerability assessment that you discussed. The first question is: does the vulnerability assessment have to be both physical and digital? Can it be one? Does it have to be both? Can you clarify there?

Meghan Jacobsen:
Yes — you will upload all the documents digitally. If you have a physical copy of a vulnerability assessment, it just needs to be scanned onto a computer and made into a PDF. They do not accept physical applications, so everything has to be digital. Hopefully that answers that.

Q3: How recent does the vulnerability assessment need to be?

Ashley Schultz:
The other question related to the vulnerability assessment is: how recent does it need to be?

Meghan Jacobsen:
I haven't run into a state that has different guidance — but states sometimes change things up — yet everything I've ever run into says that they will accept vulnerability assessments that are up to three years old. So if you get one done this year and you really can't apply — you don't have the bandwidth, or maybe your place is under construction — you can always apply next year with that same vulnerability assessment, up to three years.

Q4: Where can I find NSGP information for my state if my state's website is sparse?

Ashley Schultz:
The last question I have here is again about states. This person is just saying that North Dakota — their state — does not have a ton of information on their state website. So they're just looking for some clarification on where they can find more information.

Meghan Jacobsen:
You'll run into that with some states — some states are more forthcoming with the NSGP information than others. If that is the case — if you have a state where maybe they have really old guidance or they don't have any deadline information at all — always contact that department. It's usually through the state's Homeland Security Department, or whatever department is administering the actual grant. Contact them. That's what program managers under the grants are there for — they're there to answer the questions. Oftentimes, those states may just be waiting for nonprofits to contact them to put them on a list of interests, to then reach out once it opens. Definitely, any questions, any information you have not getting on the website, utilize that contact button of the website and contact the program itself.

Q5: Can the vulnerability assessment cover only physical or only digital security?

Ashley Schultz:
Thank you. And I lied — I do have one more question. It's a quick clarification question about that vulnerability assessment. Rather than physical-digital paper-wise, this person was more asking about physical security and digital security. Can that assessment come from a law enforcement agency, or can it come from a cybersecurity consultant organization? So I guess if I rephrase the original question: does the vulnerability assessment have to be physical security or digital security, or can it be both?

Meghan Jacobsen:
It can be either or both. There is no set requirement for who does the vulnerability assessment. Obviously, I'm assuming if you're having a cybersecurity consulting organization do the assessment, you are more looking to fund cybersecurity-type initiatives — that's fine, it gets funded under this program. If that's the only thing the vulnerability assessment addresses, that's fine. If it's also addressing physical security needs, that's fine too. There are not a lot of stringent rules around the vulnerability assessment — it just needs to be done. If any sort of security consultant or expert or law enforcement can sign off on it, that bolsters it, but again, it's not required. So it is fine if you just use the cybersecurity consulting organization for that assessment.

Closing

Ashley Schultz:
Fantastic. Okay, thanks. If you have any additional questions, I encourage you to reach out: grantwriting@grantsoffice.com if you're interested in Grants Office services related to NSGP or other upcoming grant applications, and education@grantsoffice.com if you have any questions about today's event.

I definitely encourage you to head over to our website. We have recordings of previous events like today's session. That is also where, starting tomorrow, the recording of today's event, the slides for today's event, and also that workbook that Meghan and I mentioned a few times will be located for you to download at no cost.

Big thanks to Meghan again for all of the information that she shared with us today, and thank you to you all for joining us here today to learn about the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. If you are going to be applying to this grant program in the next few weeks, we wish you all the best of luck, and we hope to see you on a future event. Have a great day.

— End of Transcript —

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About This Transcript

This transcript was generated using Webex's automatic caption feature and subsequently reformatted with the assistance of artificial intelligence. While we make every effort to ensure accuracy, errors may

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