GRANTS OFFICE
empowering communities

PSGP: How to Apply for and Win Funding

Understanding the Application and Best Practices for Success

Today's Presenters



Elizabeth Evans

Grants Office
Manager of Research & Consultation



Joe Phelan

Grants Office
Grants Development
Consultant

Scan for Joe's Funded article on Benefit Cost Analysis

TODAY'S AGENDA

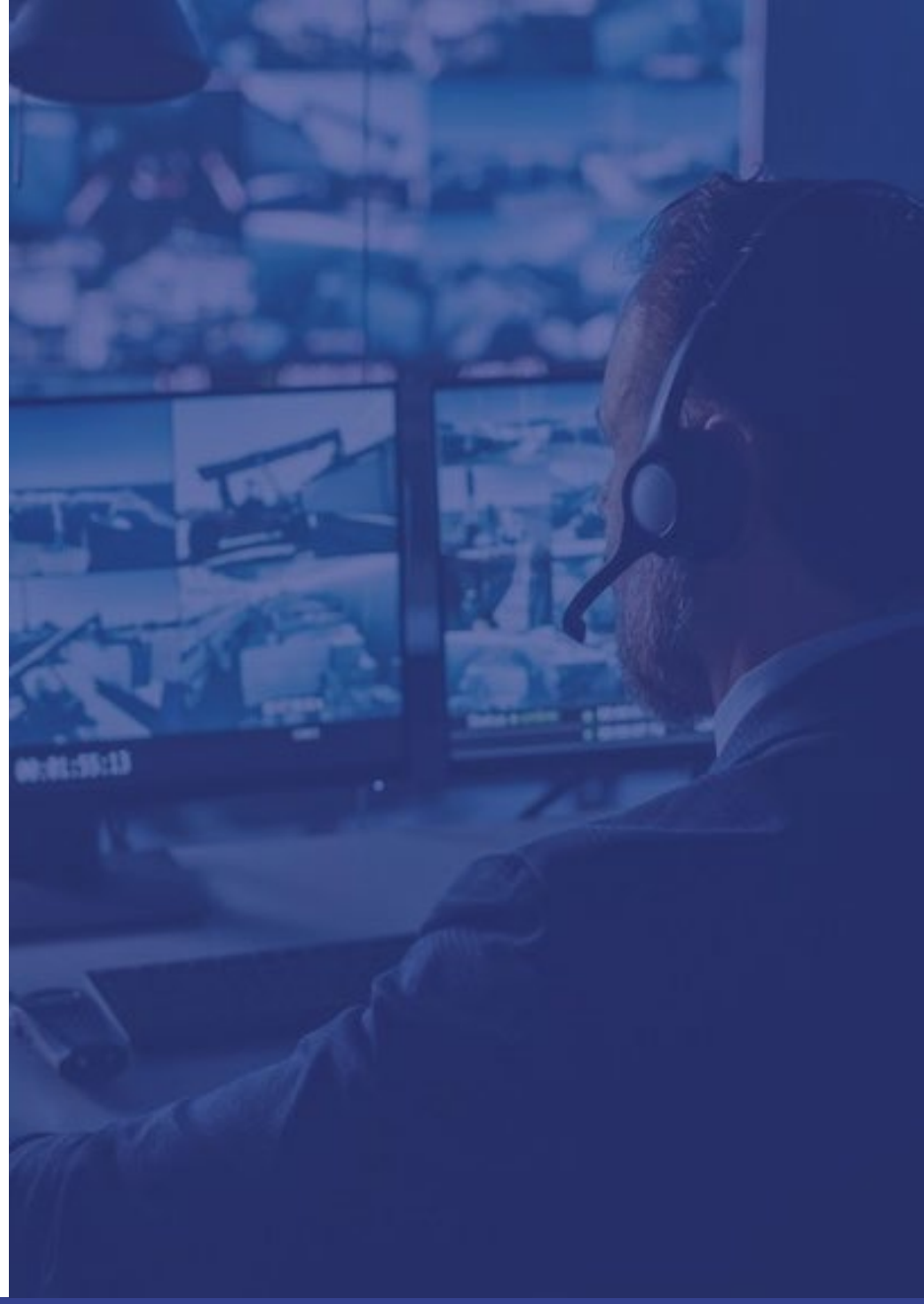
01 | Understanding the Port Security Grant Program

02 | Evaluating if PSGP is right for you

03 | Preparing a competitive PSGP proposal

04 | Engaging with Grants Office services

05 | Q&A



Understanding the Port Security Grant Program

Port Security Grant Program



Description

The goal of this program is to strengthen port-wide risk management and protection of critical surface transportation infrastructure from acts of terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies

Three objectives

- Building and sustaining core capabilities of maritime infrastructure systems in alignment with the FY 2026 NPAs
- Addressing and closing gaps identified in Area Maritime Security Plans and Facility Security Plans
- Implementing a comprehensive and coordinated approach to address enduring security needs of communities that include planning, training and awareness campaigns, equipment and capital projects, and exercises

An eligible entity may submit only one application within each Port Area.

An application may contain up to five Investment Justifications

Funding Amount

$95 million with awards ranging from $18,000 to $3.5 million

Deadline

July 24, 2026

Eligibility Notes

Port authorities, facility operators, state and local government agencies

PSGP Funding Details

Funding Stream

PSGP is funded by DHS/FEMA through a competitive grant application process

Project Period

Projects should be 36 months and will begin on September 1, 2026

Match Requirements

There is a 25% cost share required for public sector, nongovernmental, and nonprofit applicants

There is a 50% cost share required for for-profit applicants



Match Exceptions

01 Port-Wide Benefit

For-profit applicants only need a 25% cost share if the project provides port-wide benefit

02 Projects Under $25,000

No cost share is required if the total project cost for all projects under the award is $25,000 or less

03 Public Safety Personnel Security Zone Training

Projects to train public safety personnel in enforcing security zones do not require a cost share

04 Insular Areas

For grants to American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the local matching fund requirement is automatically waived for up to $200,000

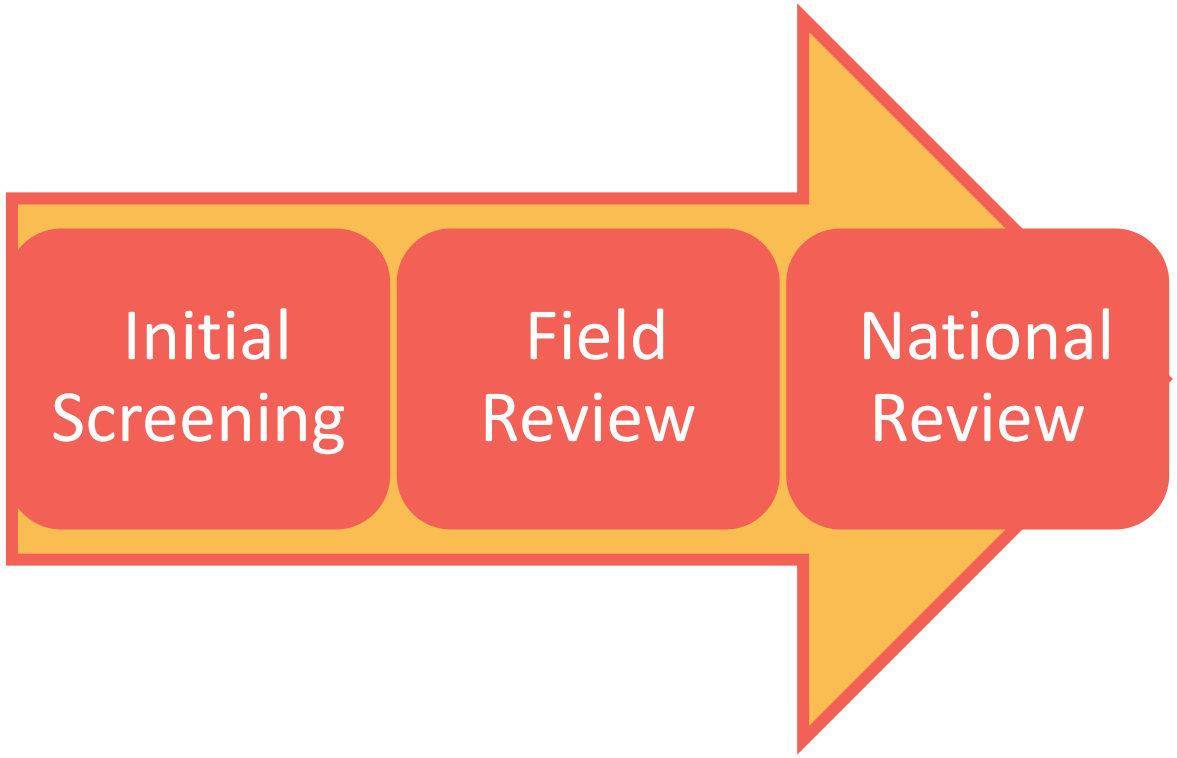
05 Waivers

Cost share waivers may be considered afterwards if the recipient can show new, significant financial hardship

Examples of Projects Under PSGP

- Port-wide Security Risk Management Plans
- Shipboard firefighting training
- Rapid response boats for preventing or responding to security incidents on waterways, especially in and around airports, cruise terminals, ferry terminals
- Physical security enhancement projects
- Cybersecurity improvements, risk assessments and/or training
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems and detection technologies
- Risk management projects for port resilience and recovery
- Landside fencing, gates, barriers
- Enhanced security aboard ferries





Application Criteria

- Projects that have a port-wide benefit will have final scores increased by a multiplier of 10%
- Projects that sufficiently address one or more of the NPAs while being a distinct and standalone project will have an increased score of 20%
- Additionally, a risk score is given (encompassing threat, vulnerability, and consequence)

Evaluating if PSGP is right for you

The Non-Negotiables

- Subjected to an Area Maritime Security Plan
- Do not provide maritime security services on a for-hire basis
- Plan to submit only one application per port area
- Proof of concepts or experimental projects
- Projects on behalf of other agencies or entities (no subawards)
- Projects that do not primarily enhance maritime security

MOU/MOA Requirement for Security Services Providers

Not Required

State and local agencies identified in the Area Maritime Security Plan of their respective Captain of the Port/Federal Maritime Security Coordinator as able to provide security services to facilities within a Port Area

vs

Required

State and local agencies not identified in the Area Maritime Security Plan but are required to provide port security services must submit a MOU/MOA



Applicant must:

01 Be comprehensive

02 Address at least one National Priority

03 Submit as many Investment Justifications (up to 5) as projects

04 Focus on only one port area

05 Complete the required SF-forms

06 Review the NOFO

Preparing a competitive PSGP application

Application Requirements

PSGP Investment Justification and Detailed Budget Worksheet

SF-424

Grants.gov Lobbying Form

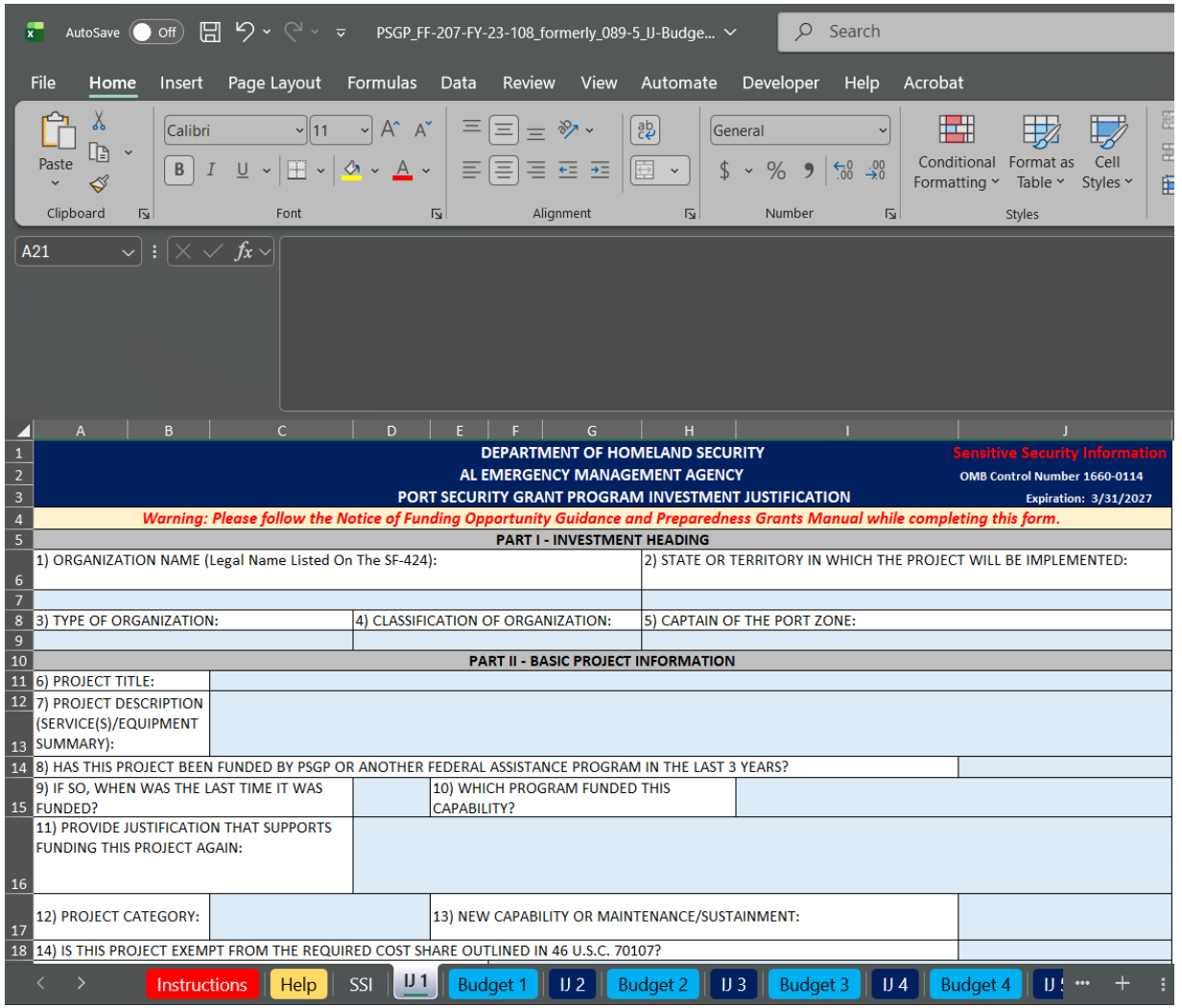
SF-424 A

SF-424 B

SF-LLL

Worksheet Components

- Investment Heading
- Basic Project Information
- Organizational Information
- Points of Contact for Organization
- Physical Location of Project
- Role in Providing Layered Protection of MTSA-regulated entities*
- Maritime Security MOU/MOA*
- Important Features
- Investment Justification Abstract
- National Priorities
- Implementation Plan
- Budget



Tips for Drafting a Compelling Investment Justification

Show, Don't Tell

Every award is expected to answer a problem. Demonstrate the problem: vulnerabili ty assessment finding, incident history, audit gap

Metrics Tell a Story

Reduced response times, increased camera coverage of critical zones, or number of IT systems being monitored for cyber threats

Be Specific and Realistic

Each project must be at least 36 months. Make sure whatever you are proposing is feasible and can effectively reduce risk

Think About the Future

The grant period will end, and there is no guarantee PSGP will fund a similar project again. Ensure that this won't be a singular purchase

Keep It Simple

Funders tell you exactly what they want from application. Make sure reviewers can easily understand the answers you provide in the worksheet



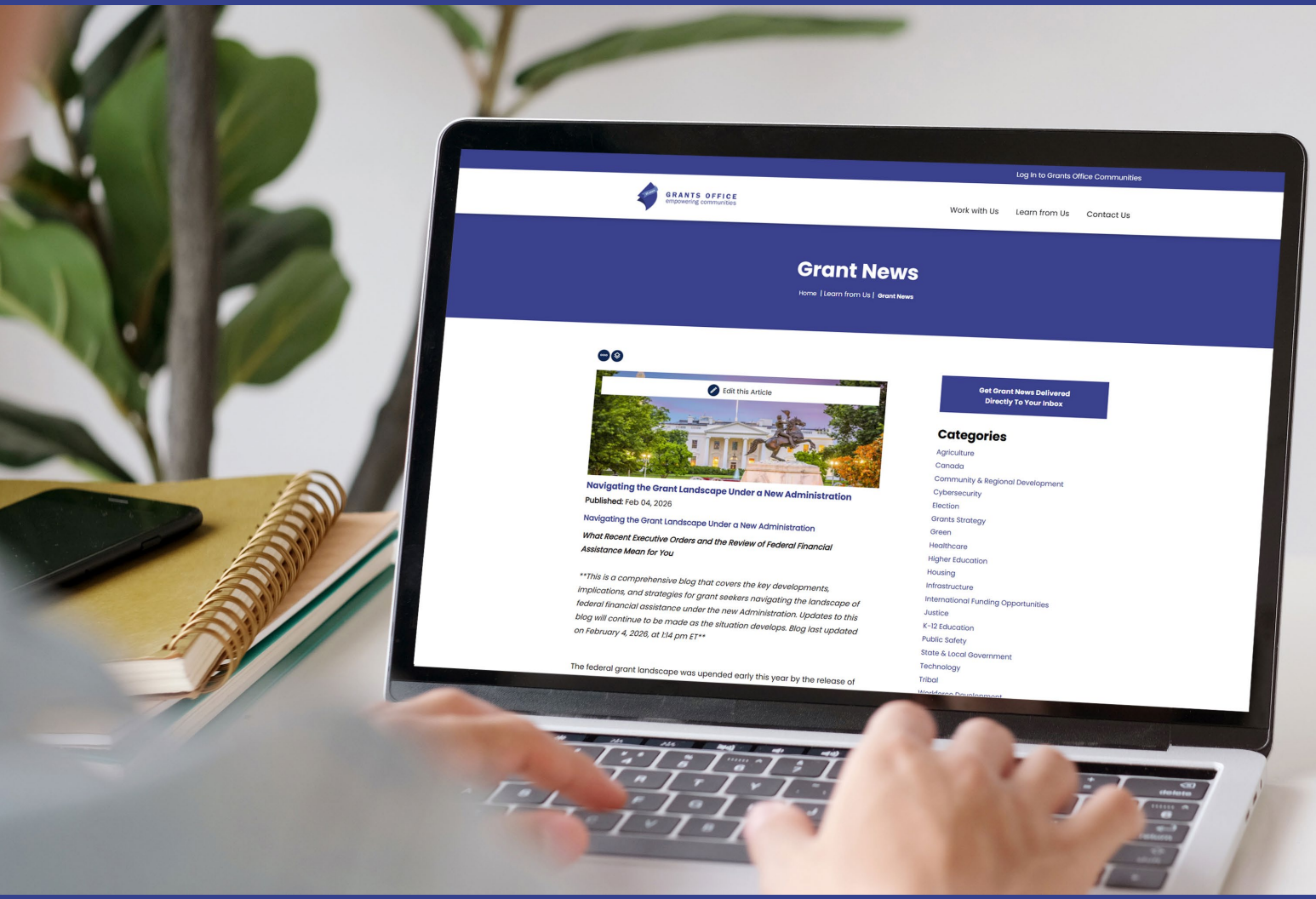
FREE Eligibility and Proposal Workbook

- Collect Important Account Details for Submission
- Build your Goals, Objectives, & Project Activities
- Outline Key Project Personnel & Duties
- Plan your Major Budget Items
- Start Brainstorming Your Narrative Content

Download our **FREE** workbook and get started preparing for PSGP today!

Grants Office is Here to Help

Questions about FY26? We have the answers.





Scan for our
***FREE* Guidance**
for Grantseekers
resources!

Grants Office is here to help!

Proposal Development & Writing

Grants are assigned a cost tier based on the complexity of the application's requirements and the time until the grant's deadline.

For example, the Port Security Grant Program falls in Tier 3.

Writing the proposal yourself?

Grants Office provides review services at 25% of the grant tier cost.

Example service costs
Pricing valid through December 2025

Tier	Cost for Proposal Development
1	$3900
2	$4900
3	$5900
4	$6900
5	$7900
6+	$8900+



Engage with Grants Office to Write Your Proposal

Step 1

Contact Us

Email your completed Eligibility and Proposal Workbook to Joe, our PSGP expert: grantwriting@grantsoffice.com

Step 2

Initial Meeting

Joe will set up a time to discuss your project goals and development needs.

Step 3

Grant Writing will Begin

Your Grants Office Grant Writer will utilize the materials you provide to write your PSGP Proposal.

Step 4

Proposal Review

Meet with Joe to finalize your proposal and ensure all requirements have been met.

Step 5

Submit Application

Once completed, you will submit your grant application and let us know when you win!

Start here!

Other Grants Office Services

SCAN HERE

Research & Consultation

Grants Office will identify what grants best fit your upcoming projects and develop next steps.

Project Building

Grants Office will advise on project development and material gathering with a particular grant in mind.

Grant Proposal Writing

Grants Office will write a competitive and engaging proposal.

Grant Proposal Review

Grants Office will provide feedback on application materials, ensuring compliance with submission requirements.

Grants Office Communities

Find and share funding opportunities, manage proposals, collaborate, and access Grants Office Support.

Sign up for a **FREE 2-week trial!**

Questions?

GRANTS OFFICE
empowering communities

Contact Us

grantsoffice.com

grantwriting@grantsoffice.com

Grants Office Communities
LinkedIn