FACT SHEET: Federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program

Strengthening security at Jewish communal institutions has long been a priority for the Orthodox Union Advocacy Center.

In 2005, the OU Advocacy Center and its coalition partners spearheaded the creation of the federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), which provides grants to synagogues, churches, mosques and other houses of worship as well as day as religious day schools and other nonprofits at risk of terror attacks to increase building security.

To date, the program—administered by the Department of Homeland Security—has allocated $419 million for the program and the funding has been disbursed to more than 4,000 institutions across the country.

For 2020, Congress approved $90 million in NSGP funding, a 50 percent increase over the previous year. Of the total amount, $50 million was apportioned to institutions in major urban areas, and another $40 million to institutions in other geographic regions. The OU Advocacy Center is now working with federal legislators to quadruple the 2020 allocation to $360 million.

Recipients may receive up to $100,000 apiece to improve building security by acquiring and installing equipment such as blast-resistant doors and windows, video surveillance and metal detectors. The grants may also be used to train staff and volunteers and pay for contracted security personnel.