

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 21, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin:

We are writing to follow up on discussions at your confirmation hearing regarding the vital importance of the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), which provides funding support to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of terrorist attacks. These funds have been used to harden the outside of buildings, improve security systems, and cover the costs of security staff.

As we discussed at the hearing, terrorist threats at places of worship are rising nationwide, with a particular threat currently facing Jewish institutions. In March, a Hezbollah-inspired terrorist attacked the Temple Israel synagogue in West Bloomfield, Michigan, driving a truck into the building and setting off explosions. It is only due to the quick thinking and bravery of the private security agents hired by the synagogue that we were spared from a massive loss of life among preschoolers attending class and others in the building. This attack came after a May 2025 shooting outside the Capitol Jewish Museum in Washington, DC, that killed two; a June 2025 attack on Jewish community members in Boulder, CO, that injured 12 and killed one; and a January 2026 arson attack on the Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, MS. According to the Jewish Federations of North America, the Jewish community is now spending over \$765 million per year on its own security.

Over the past decade, the NSGP program has enabled institutions to strengthen their security and harden the exteriors of their buildings. But the program is also plagued with restrictions and delays that have limited its effectiveness. We would like to take you up on your offer discuss potential improvements to the NSGP program over the long term. Before we meet, there are several steps that you can take immediately to assist the nonprofits that rely on this program:

- (1) Release the long-delayed awards for FY2025. Following the presidential transition, DHS moved slowly to open applications for NSGP grants for FY2025. The Notice of Funding Opportunity was not released until August 13, 2025, more than 10 months into the fiscal year. And now, more than six months into FY2026, the grants have still not been announced. Now that FEMA has full funding, we urge you to move quickly to finalize and announce the grant awardees and disburse the funds to the states.
- (2) Issue the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FY2026 promptly with clear eligibility guidance and requirements aligned to the grant purpose. For the FY2025 cycle,

DHS revised its standard terms and conditions to add conditions related to immigration enforcement and diversity initiatives. While several of these do not apply to the NSGP program, the remaining ones have caused confusion and concern among potential applicants. We urge you to move quickly to get the next round of grant funding started soon and to focus the grant on security and risk rather than on these unrelated issues.

- (3) Ensure that the NSGP program office is adequately funded and staffed. The nonprofit community has shared concerns that the delays in the FY2025 grant cycle were driven in part by insufficient staffing in the NSGP Program Office at DHS. We urge you to immediately review the staffing levels within the NSGP Program Office to ensure that enough staff are dedicated to administering the grant application process, coordinating with the state applicants, and disbursing funds to grantees in a timely manner.

Going forward, we look forward to working with you to further improve the operations of the program. Specifically, we will encourage the Department to strengthen communication with State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) to support effective administration at the state level. And we will ask that the Department address delays in reimbursement of awarded funds so that at-risk institutions can feel comfortable applying for grants and spending on improvements, knowing that they will be reimbursed in a timely manner.

We appreciate your willingness to engage with us on this important program that has enabled nonprofit organizations across the country to harden themselves against terror attacks. The need for the program remains high, and we are eager to work with you to strengthen it moving forward.

Sincerely,



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator