

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Mr. David Richardson
Senior Official Performing the Duties of Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Secretary Noem and Mr. Richardson:

We write to you out of shared concern about the status of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) awards.

FEMA was required by law to publish the FY 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for NSGP by May 14, 2025, but chose not to comply.¹ The administration finally released the FY 2025 NSGP NOFO on July 28, but it lacked basic information necessary to move the application process forward and to fruition, such as when FEMA planned to administer the application process, make award decisions, and release funding to nonprofit organizations. To date, FEMA still has not shared this information with States or nonprofit organizations, nor has FEMA indicated whether the period of performance for awarded projects has already begun. States have repeatedly asked FEMA for this information, and they have received no response. This has also created a chilling effect on faith-based and nonprofit organizations that are hesitant to participate in an opaque application process.

We understand that FEMA plans to continue to withhold the \$275 million in FY 2025 NSGP funds and, prior to the government shutdown, awards for nonprofit organizations were scheduled to take several months. Further, FEMA continues to disregard the congressionally mandated outreach, engagement, and educational assistance to advise nonprofits on how to apply for NSGP.² As of the date of this letter, FEMA has not held a single webinar to advise nonprofits on how to apply for these needed funds. Because of FEMA's delays and lack of coordination and communication with States, many States have already opened and closed the application period for nonprofit organizations, meaning that any outreach from FEMA at this point would be too late. Other States have not opened the application process and have not communicated with faith-based and nonprofit stakeholders, leaving the process and the potential applicants in limbo.

In addition, FEMA's FY 2025 NOFO introduced vague, new requirements and conditions that have created confusion among States and nonprofits, leaving applicants uncertain about whether

¹ Pub. L. No. 118-47, § 303; Pub. L. No. 119-4, § 1101(a)(6).

² Pub. L. No. 117-263 § 7101(a)(5).

their proposals would be qualified or disqualified for funding and what constituted compliance in order to receive payments from FEMA. For example, the NOFO includes language implying that eligibility for funding could depend on cooperation with Federal immigration enforcement efforts—a significant departure from past practice. FEMA also now requires States to collect and submit additional information about each nonprofit organization before awards can be made and each time nonprofits need to be reimbursed—steps that could significantly slow the process for both States and nonprofits and add undue administrative costs and burden. Such provisions have created concern that faith-based and community organizations might not be able to receive timely reimbursements from FEMA, if they receive any reimbursement at all, discouraging them further from applying for funds.

We are also deeply concerned by reports that DHS may be discriminating against Muslim organizations. In August 2025, DHS reportedly cancelled NSGP funding that had been awarded to over 40 Muslim organizations and banned their eligibility for future funding, citing “alleged affiliations with terrorist activities.”³ More recent reporting indicates that these cancellations may have been part of a broader attempt by DHS leadership to ban FEMA funding for all Muslim organizations.⁴ DHS has not presented evidence sufficient to justify disqualifying these organizations from receiving grant funding.⁵

We are alarmed that the administration has not awarded the \$275 million that Congress made available for NSGP in FY 2025 given the escalating threats that nonprofit organizations—including synagogues, churches, and mosques—continue to experience. This delay comes at a time when our Nation continues to see nonprofits targeted by bad actors, which the NOFO itself acknowledges. In August, a Minneapolis Catholic Church was the site of a mass shooting that left 2 children dead and injured 21 other people.⁶ In September, a man opened fire and set ablaze a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Grand Blanc, Michigan, killing 4 people and wounding 8.⁷ The U.S. has also seen a rise in violent antisemitic attacks, including the hostage-taking incident at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas in 2022, and the deadly shooting outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C. earlier this year.⁸ Now is not the time for NSGP resources to be withheld from communities, nor the NOFO and grant guidance to continue to remain incomplete.

In further departure from precedent, the administration has yet to share with Congress which

³ Morgan Phillips, *DHS pulls funding from groups with ‘alleged terrorist ties’ after watchdog report*, FOX NEWS (Aug. 20, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/dhs-pulls-funding-from-groups-alleged-terrorist-ties-after-watchdog-report>.

⁴ Gabe Cohen, *Trump administration sought to block Muslim groups from receiving security funding*, CNN (Oct. 10, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/10/10/politics/fema-security-grant-muslim-groups-trump>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Doc Louallen, *Minnesota Catholic school reopens after mass shooting that killed 2 children*, ABC News (Sept. 15, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/annunciation-catholic-school-resume-campus-activities-week/story?id=125590291>.

⁷ Isabella Volmert and Corey Williams, *Gunman opens fire at Michigan church and sets it ablaze, killing at least 4 and wounding 8*, AP NEWS (Sept. 29, 2025) <https://apnews.com/article/mormon-church-shooting-michigan-dcb79ee701b0b8076bf73e30e10ba2b7>.

⁸ *Texas Synagogue Hostage Situation Hostages Rescued Safely, Suspect Dies in Texas Synagogue Standoff*, NY Times (Jan. 15, 2022) <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/01/15/us/synagogue-hostage-texas-colleyville>; Odette Yousef, *Shooting outside Jewish museum raises questions about shifts in political violence*, NPR (May 28, 2025) <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/28/nx-s1-5414616/jewish-museum-shooting-political-violence>.

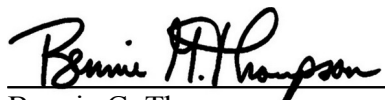
nonprofits received NSGP awards from the National Security Supplemental funding, despite awards having been made months ago and repeated bipartisan requests. Congress has invested historic levels in NSGP and the administration's refusal to share information with Congress hurts the ability of Congress to properly assess resource needs.


Therefore, we urge DHS and FEMA to take the following actions:


1. Immediately clarify the timeline for the FY 2025 NSGP applications, address all other open issues or incomplete grant guidance to the State Administrative Agencies and nonprofit sub-applicants, and expedite application completion and awards to nonprofits.
2. Immediately remove the vague NOFO requirements that unduly burden States and nonprofit organizations and may ultimately prevent nonprofits from accessing funds.
3. Immediately provide Congress with the full list of nonprofits that received NSGP awards this year and continue to provide this information each time awards are made in the future.
4. Immediately begin outreach, engagement, and educational assistance to nonprofits to share essential information about the NSGP application process.
5. Immediately rescind any guidance or directives that have resulted, or could result, in violations of anti-discrimination laws within NSGP.

FEMA must take immediate steps to get the FY 2025 NSGP back on track so that FY 2026 can proceed without the present delays, inconsistencies and uncertainties, and lack of uniformity and predictability that have previously been the hallmarks and guardrails for a program serving several thousand faith-based and nonprofit applicants each grant cycle. The Administration's own budget for FY 2026 endorsed continued NSGP funding, reflecting a shared commitment to keeping communities safe and ensuring funds reach those who need them most.

Sincerely,


Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member


Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress


J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



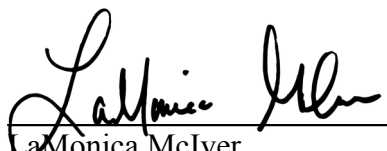
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



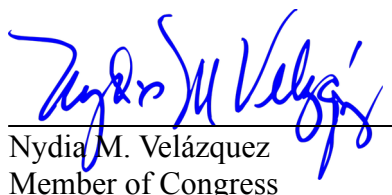
James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



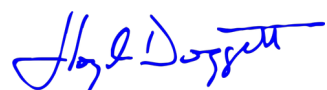
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



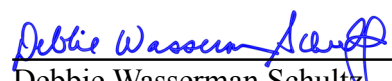
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



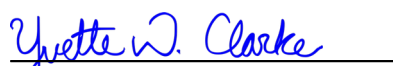
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress




Ed Case
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress




Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



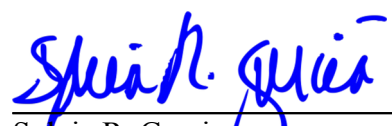
Dina Titus
Member of Congress




Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



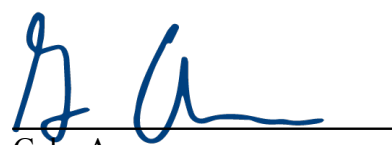
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress




Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



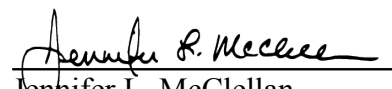
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



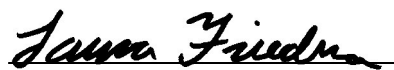
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



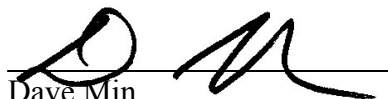
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino, Chairman