

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 19, 2026

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1836

Introduced by Assembly ~~Member~~ *Members Gabriel and Ward*

February 11, 2026

An act to amend Section 8588.9 of the Government Code, relating to state government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1836, as amended, Gabriel. California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

Existing law establishes the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program under the administration of the Director of Emergency Services to improve the physical security of nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of violent attacks or hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs, or mission. *Existing law authorizes applicants to use grant funds for prescribed security enhancements, including security training. Existing law makes the operation of the program contingent upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act.*

This bill would ~~make nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.~~ instead establish the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program to improve the physical security of nonprofit organizations and events hosted by nonprofit organizations that are at a high risk of violent attacks or hate crimes, as described above. The bill would also authorize the grant money to be used by applicants for security enhancements for security for onsite or offsite events hosted by a nonprofit organization. The bill would prohibit these provisions from limiting a nonprofit organization without a physical site from being eligible for funding for offsite events, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 8588.9 of the Government Code is
 2 amended to read:
 3 8588.9. (a) The California State Nonprofit Security Grant
 4 Program is hereby established under the administration of the
 5 director to improve the physical security of nonprofit organizations,
 6 including schools, clinics, community centers, churches,
 7 synagogues, mosques, temples, and similar ~~locations~~ *locations*,
 8 *and events hosted by nonprofit organizations*, that are at a high
 9 risk for violent attacks or hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs, or
 10 mission.
 11 (b) The California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program shall
 12 do all of the following:
 13 (1) Provide grants to nonprofit organizations to harden soft
 14 targets that are nonprofit ~~organizations~~ *organizations, or events*
 15 *hosted by nonprofit organizations*, and at a high risk for violent
 16 attacks and hate crimes, as described in subdivision (a).
 17 (A) Grant money may be distributed to an applicant for all of
 18 the following enhancements to that applicant’s security:
 19 (i) Security guards.
 20 (ii) Reinforced doors and gates.
 21 (iii) High-intensity lighting and alarms.
 22 (iv) Security training.
 23 (v) *Security for onsite or offsite events hosted by a nonprofit*
 24 *organization.*
 25 ~~(v)~~
 26 (vi) Any other security enhancement consistent with the purpose
 27 of the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program.
 28 (B) Grant money may be distributed for all of the purposes
 29 described in this subparagraph to an applicant that provides support
 30 to another nonprofit organization or a cluster of other nonprofit
 31 organizations at a high risk for violent attacks and hate crimes, as
 32 described in subdivision (a).
 33 (i) Vulnerability assessments.
 34 (ii) Security trainings.
 35 (iii) Mass notification alert systems.

1 (iv) Monitoring and response systems.

2 (v) Lifesaving emergency equipment.

3 (C) *This paragraph shall not limit a nonprofit organization*
4 *without a physical site from being eligible for funding for offsite*
5 *events if the event is at a high risk for violent attacks or hate*
6 *crimes, as described in subdivision (a).*

7 (2) Allow award recipients to use grant funds to pay staff or
8 third-party contractors or consultants to assist with the management
9 and administration of the grant funds awarded. Award recipients
10 shall use no more than 5 percent of the grant funds awarded for
11 the purpose stated in this paragraph.

12 (3) Limit construction or renovation activities done in support
13 of the target hardening activities related to security, such as
14 installing additional emergency exits, to one hundred thousand
15 dollars (\$100,000) of the grant funds awarded.

16 (c) An applicant shall not be granted an amount greater than
17 five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

18 (d) The director shall not take an applicant's prior history with
19 or receipt of grant funding to improve its physical security into
20 account during the evaluation of the entity's application.

21 (e) When evaluating applications, the director shall consider
22 whether an applicant is more likely to be a target of hate-motivated
23 violence.

24 (f) The operation of the California State Nonprofit Security
25 Grant Program is contingent upon an appropriation in the annual
26 Budget Act for purposes of this section.

27 (g) The director shall adopt, as necessary, application
28 procedures, forms, administrative guidelines, and other
29 requirements for purposes of implementing and administering the
30 California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program. All application
31 procedures, forms, administrative guidelines, and other
32 requirements developed by the director pursuant to this subdivision
33 shall be exempt from the rulemaking provisions of the
34 Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with
35 Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3).

36 (h) The Office of Emergency Services shall provide ongoing
37 technical assistance for nonprofit organizations that require a
38 vulnerability assessment for a state application to the California
39 State Nonprofit Security Grant Program or a threat assessment for
40 a federal application to the Nonprofit Security Grant Program of

1 the United States Department of Homeland Security. This
2 assistance shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

3 (1) A resource page, which includes a toll-free telephone
4 number, on the Office of Emergency Service's internet website
5 that describes available resources for vulnerability assessments at
6 no cost to the applicant.

7 (2) Continuous outreach to stakeholders on available resources
8 for vulnerability assessments outside the established grant cycle.