



State of Tennessee
Department of Safety and Homeland Security
Office of Homeland Security

**HOUSES OF WORSHIP
CONTRACTED SECURITY PERSONNEL GRANT PROGRAM
2026-2027
INFORMATION AND APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

A. What is the Houses of Worship Contracted Security Personnel Grant Program?

The State of Tennessee's Houses of Worship Contracted Security Personnel Grant Program for "Contracted Security Personnel", as defined below, is a competitive grant, subject to specific appropriation of funds, for eligible 501(c)(3) organizations who can demonstrate the threat and vulnerability to their organization and how the grant funding will address gaps and deficiencies in their current program and capabilities. The grant has a maximum twelve (12) month grant period consistent with the Tennessee state fiscal year and funds will be disbursed through a Tennessee cost reimbursement grant contract. Additional information can be found on the Department's website here: [Grants \(https://www.tn.gov/safety/homeland-security/grants.html\)](https://www.tn.gov/safety/homeland-security/grants.html) under the Grant Programs/Houses of Worship State Security Grant Program link. Additional information can also be found on the application available here: https://tdoshs_grants.plumsail.io/86d515db-97e4-42cd-bcb5-15ddce8f5b9a) [HOW Grant FY27](#)

B. Who are Eligible Applicants?

Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) organizations who can demonstrate the threat and vulnerability to their organization and how the grant funding will address gaps and deficiencies in their current program and capabilities. Eligible organizations are registered 501(c)(3) nonprofits or otherwise are organizations as described under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and tax-exempt under section 501(a) of the IRC. More information on tax-exempt organizations can be found at: <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations>.

C. What are the dates of the application period?

Dates for when the application period opens and closes will be posted at the Department's website here: [Grants \(https://www.tn.gov/safety/homeland-security/grants.html\)](https://www.tn.gov/safety/homeland-security/grants.html) under the Grant Information/2026-2027 Houses of Worship State Grant Program Documents.

D. What are the Funding Details and Other Requirements?

1. Funding Details:

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security ("Department") has been appropriated funding, from the Tennessee General Assembly, to disburse through Tennessee cost reimbursement grant contracts. No more than one (1) grant award will be made to an eligible organization in a single state fiscal year. An applicant must demonstrate the threat and vulnerability to their organization and how the grant funding will address gaps and deficiencies in their current program and capabilities. Only one applicant can apply per building, facility, physical structure, or address. As a competitive grant, funds are not awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Each item in the application has been assigned a point value, each application will be evaluated and scored, and grant contracts



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will be awarded based on scores and funding availability. Additional information can be found on the application, available here: [HOW Grant FY27](#)

2. Other Requirements:

a. United States Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency/Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). The NSGP prohibits federal grant funds to be used to replace funds appropriated for the same purpose. Organizations receiving federal NSGP funds for contracted security personnel are not eligible for this Tennessee grant.

b. Definition of "Contracted Security Personnel". "Contracted Security Personnel" is defined as follows:

- (1) Tennessee Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST) certified law enforcement officers authorized by their employing agency to provide extra-duty security services. (see Tenn. Code Ann. § 38-8-104 for powers and duties of POST; Tenn. Code Ann. § 38-8-106 for qualifications of police officers; and Tenn. Code Ann. § 38-8-107 for certification of officers) or
- (2) A Tennessee licensed security guard employed by a contract security company licensed by the State of Tennessee to provide private protective services. (see Private Protective Services Licensing and Regulatory Act, Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 62-35-101 et seq. and Rules of Department of Commerce and Insurance Division of Regulatory Boards, Chapter 0780-05-02 Private Protective Services).

Applicants who are awarded a grant contract shall ensure that these requirements are met, shall be responsible for verifying proper licensure, and shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws regarding the use of Contracted Security Personnel.

c. Reimbursement. Grant funding is available to reimburse organizations for actual hours worked by Contracted Security Personnel providing services at the physical address noted by the applicant in the application. Expenses for travel, equipment, uniforms, security planning, training, and other types of expenses are not eligible for reimbursement. Expenses must be incurred by the entity that is applying, not a third party on behalf of the entity, and reimbursement will be to the entity only, not a third party. Required documentation for reimbursement must be submitted in a format and timeline prescribed by the Department and as explained in the grant contract. Failure to meet established deadlines will result in non-reimbursement.



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- d. Procurement of Contracted Security Personnel Services. Pursuant to the grant contract, if reimbursement for the cost of contracted services is allowed, the procurement of those services shall be made on a competitive basis, including the use of competitive bidding procedures, where practical. Documentation for the basis of each procurement for which there is a reimbursement paid under the Grant Contract must be maintained. In an instance where it is determined that use of a competitive procurement method is not practical, supporting documentation seeking the reimbursement shall include a written justification for the decision and for use of a non-competitive procurement.

E. What If I Have Questions About My Application?

General questions about the grant program, these application instructions, and the application process may be submitted to ohs.grants@tn.gov. Please understand that due to the competitive nature of this grant, and the anticipated high number of applicants, there may be a delayed response to your question. The Department will strive to do its best to answer all questions as timely as possible. The Department may not be able to provide guidance or feedback that is specific to a particular organization.

F. How Do I Know If I Have Been Selected to Receive Funding?

Each applicant will be notified if they have or have not been selected for funding. Applicants that are selected will be sent a Tennessee Grant Contract that will need to be signed and returned as instructed upon receipt. The timing of any notification will depend on the number of applications received. Due to the anticipated high number of applicants, the Department is not able to give a timeline for these notifications.

G. What If I Have Multiple Locations But Am One Organization, Can I Apply for Each Location?

Yes, but a separate application is needed for each building, facility, physical structure, or address.

H. How Do I Apply and Submit An Application?

1. One Application Per Location. Please only submit one (1) application per building, facility, physical structure, or address. If an entity wishes to apply for multiple locations, a separate application should be completed.
2. Review.

Review all information at the Department's website (<https://www.tn.gov/safety>) under the Grants tab under Homeland Security, on this information and instruction sheet, and on the application itself.



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3. Legal Entity Name. When completing the application, an applicant must use their legal entity name that exactly matches the legal entity name on the W-9. Please do not add any other words to the entity name to indicate location or for any other purpose, unless those words are part of the legal entity name on the W-9. An entity's physical address for where the proposed security services are to be performed may be used on the application while a business address may be used on the W-9 form.
4. Complete.

Complete the Houses of Worship Grant Application 2026-2027 online here: [HOW Grant FY27](#)
5. Required and Other Attachments.
 - a. Required:

A properly completed U.S. Department of Treasury Internal Revenue Service Form W-9 Form W-9 (Rev. March 2024) must be submitted with the completed application.
 - b. Required:
 - (1) If the organization currently employs contracted security personnel, a copy of a recent invoice must be submitted with the completed application.
 - (2) If the organization does not currently employ contracted security personnel, but hopes to do so if it is awarded a portion of this grant funding, a copy of a quote from "contracted security personnel" as defined above in D.2.b. must be submitted with the completed application.
 - c. Other:

Application submissions may include attachments of documentation to supplement the information provided in the application. Such attachments include but are not limited to vulnerability assessments, police reports, insurance claims, and verification or proof of threats made. The attachments must be in a PDF format. We cannot accept an image of any document. Any additional attachments should be referenced and noted in the narrative responses on the application.
6. Ensure Accuracy and Completeness of Application. Please make sure that the application is accurate and complete. Incomplete applications will not be processed. Revised applications will not be accepted.