SAFEGUARD IL COMMUNITIES COALITION
SUPPORT FUNDING THE IL NON-PROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM AT $20 MILLION

Issue: Antisemitic, anti-Asian, anti-Black, anti-LGBTQ, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, and other forms of hate crimes and domestic terrorism are increasing at unprecedented rates. This increase in incidents has left vulnerable many nonprofits seeking to create a safe space for people and communities to come together. The Illinois Nonprofit Security Grant Program, established in 2017 to provide funds for nonprofits to bolster their security, has never received an appropriation. In a recent survey completed by 60% of the Secure Illinois Communities Coalition, all respondents identified security vulnerabilities at their locations.

Background: In 2017, the Illinois General Assembly identified the need for a state supplement to the oversubscribed federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) and passed HB 4011, creating a grant program administered by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) to help nonprofits improve their security.

- Examples of security projects eligible under the grant program include safety and security training and planning, security cameras, walls, bulletproof glass, reinforced doors, bollards, increased cyber security, and, under certain circumstances, security guards.
- Eleven additional states, including California, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, have funded similar security grant programs beginning as early as 2017. Recent appropriations among other state programs have ranged between $450,000 and $50 million per year.

Funding: Governor Pritzker’s proposed FY 2023 budget includes a $20 million appropriation. Costs related to administration and staffing for IEMA are included in the funding. The Illinois Legislative Jewish, Asian American, Black, and Latino Caucuses support funding the program and funding for the program has been formally endorsed by the Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes.

Who is Eligible: Both Illinois and federal applicants must be 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, such as private schools, community centers, childcare centers, camps, churches, synagogues, mosques, and cultural museums.

Why Fund This Program Now: Funding the Illinois NSGP in the IEMA budget will save lives by bolstering security at places of worship and other institutions facing hate-motivated violence. We were sadly reminded of our collective nonprofit security vulnerabilities and the importance of preparedness in January 2022 during a hostage-taking event in Colleyville, Texas. The Beth Israel rabbi credited his active shooter and security training with saving the synagogue hostages’ lives and being able to escape physically unharmed. Hate crimes in the U.S. reached their highest point in over a decade in 2020, with over 7,500 incidents formally reported to the FBI.

- Religious hate crimes rose 7% from 2019, with the FBI reporting over 1,000 faith-motivated hate crimes in 2020. Jewish Americans are the victims of more than 57.5% of religiously motivated hate crimes, and antisemitic hate crimes increased 75% in late spring of 2021. After Jews, Muslims are the victims of the second-largest percentage of religiously motivated hate crimes. Other statistics from the FBI’s most recent data include:
  - Over 500 Anti-Hispanic/Latinx hate crimes reported.
  - Over 2,700 anti-Black hate crimes reported.
  - Over 1,200 anti-LGBTQ hate crimes reported.
  - Over 2,800 anti-Asian hate crimes were reported in the last year by the Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center.
  - In 2020, the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center recorded over 20,000 incidents of cyber harassment/violent cyber threats.

For more information, please contact Amy Zimmerman, Assistant Vice President, State Government Affairs, Jewish United Fund at 312-357-4863 or amyzimmerman@juf.org; or Rabbi Shlomo Soroka, Director of Government Affairs, Agudath Israel of Illinois at 312-254-7543 or ssoroka@AgudahIL.org.
The Safeguard Illinois Communities Coalition is a diverse group of nonprofit cultural, civic, religious, racial, and ethnic organizations where people come together in fellowship, prayer, or in community. These organizations and others have joined together to stand against hate-motivated violence. The Coalition believes in the importance of funding the Illinois Nonprofit Security Grant Program as a way of protecting vulnerable communities and the nonprofit organizations serving these populations throughout the state from rising hate crimes and extremism.

Agudath Israel of Illinois
American Jewish Committee
Anshe Sholom B’Nai Israel
Anti-Defamation League
Association of World War II Veterans
Bronzeville Historical Society
Buddhist/Japanese-American Community
Catholic Charities of Chicago
Center on Halsted
Chicago Board of Rabbis
Chicago Urban League
CJE SeniorLife
Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community
Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago
EZRA
Forefront
Hillels of Illinois
IARF
Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities
Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center
JCC Chicago
JCFS Chicago
Jewish Community Relations Council and Jewish Federation of Springfield, IL
Jewish Federation of Peoria
Jewish Federation of Southern Illinois
Jewish Federations of North America
Jewish United Fund
Keshet
Latino Policy Forum
Libenu
Lubavitch Chabad of Illinois
Phoenix Center
Planned Parenthood of Illinois
Rainbow Cafe
Refugee Social Services Consortium
Secure Community Network
SHALVA
Shomrim Society of Illinois
Sikh Religious Society
Sinai Health System
Solutions and Resources
South Asian American Policy & Research Institute
Stone Temple Baptist Church
Syrian Community Network
The ARK
The Catholic Conference of Illinois
The Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition
The Leaders Network
The Ninth Candle
The Resurrection Project
Trickster Cultural Center
UCAN Chicago