FUND THE ILLINOIS NON-PROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

Support HB 4438 and SB 3740

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.
- Ten 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: $8 million is requested as an initial appropriation for FY 2023. Costs related to administration and staffing for IEMA are included in this appropriation.

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. 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 additional information, please contact Amy Zimmerman, Asst. Vice President, State Government Affairs, Jewish United Fund, amyzimmerman@juf.org or Rabbi Shlomo Soroka, Dir. Government Affairs Agudath Israel of IL, 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.

**Members (In Formation)**

- Agudath Israel of Illinois
- American Jewish Committee
- Anshe Sholom B’Nai Israel
- Anti-Defamation League
- Association of World War II Veterans
- Bronzeville Historical Society
- Catholic Charities of Chicago
- Center on Halsted
- Chicago Board of Rabbis
- Chicago Urban League
- CJESeniorLife
- Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago
- EZRA
- Forefront
- Hillels of Illinois
- 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
- Sikh Religious Society
- Sinai Health System
- Solutions and Resources
- South Asian American Policy & Research Institute
- SHALVA
- 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