

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Rhodesia Ransom , Chair

AB 1836 (Gabriel) – As Amended March 19, 2026

SUBJECT: California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program

SUMMARY: Requires the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program (Program) to include events hosted by nonprofit organizations, whether onsite or offsite, when improving the physical security of nonprofit organizations that are at high risk for violent attacks or hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs, or mission.

Specifically, **this bill:**

1. Requires the Program to include events hosted by nonprofit organizations when improving the physical security of nonprofit organizations, as specified.
2. Authorizes grants provided to nonprofit organizations through the Program to include events hosted by nonprofit organizations.
3. Authorizes grants provided to nonprofit organizations through the Program to include security for onsite or offsite events hosted by a nonprofit organization.
4. Clarifies a nonprofit organization without a physical site is eligible for funding for offsite events if the event is at a high risk for violent attacks or hate crimes, as specified.
5. Other nonsubstantive and clarifying changes.

EXISTING LAW:

1. Establishes the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program, improving the physical security of nonprofit organizations, including schools, clinics, community centers, churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and similar locations that are at a high risk for violent attacks or hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs, or mission. (Government Code Section 8588.9)
2. Requires the Program to provide nonprofit organizations funding for the purpose of hardening soft targets that are nonprofit organizations and at a high risk for violent attacks and hate crimes, as specified. (Government Code Section 8588.9)
3. Authorizes grant money to be distributed by the Program, as specified, to an applicant that provides support to another nonprofit organization or a cluster of other nonprofit organizations at a high risk for violent attacks and hate crimes, as specified.
4. Requires the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Director to consider whether an applicant is more likely to be a target of hate-motivated violence. (Government Code Section 8588.9)
5. Requires the Cal OES Director to provide ongoing technical assistance for nonprofit organizations that require a vulnerability assessment for a state application

to the Program or a threat assessment for a federal application to the Nonprofit Security Grant Program of the United States Department of Homeland Security. (Government Code Section 8588.9)

6. Authorizes each local law enforcement agency to adopt a hate crimes policy. Any local law enforcement agency that updates an existing hate crimes policy or adopts a new hate crimes policy shall include, but not limited to, definitions, frameworks, and information, as specified. (Penal Code Section 422.87).
7. Authorizes the federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) authorized by Section 2003 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, (Pub. L. No. 107-296)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. A fiscal committee has not analyzed this bill.

COMMENTS:

Author Statement: “The California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program has been very impactful since its creation in 2019, becoming the most popular grant program at CalOES. Even with this success, there is a clear need to continue to remove barriers and bolster California's security support infrastructure. AB 1836 expands funding access for off-site events in need of security, such as LGBTQ+ Pride celebrations, cultural festivals, and religious observances, ensuring California continues to protect our vulnerable communities targeted by hate.”

Equity Statement: “This bill helps protect the communities most at risk of attacks. In the bill’s language, it states that the CSNSGP is established to improve the physical security of nonprofits, and events hosted by nonprofits, that are at a high risk for violent attacks or hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs, or mission.”

Federal and State Nonprofit Security Grant Programs: The Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) was authorized by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and is subject to annual appropriations.¹ In years prior to FY 2018, the NSGP was tailored to target hardening and other physical security enhancements to nonprofit organizations located inside urban areas designated to be at higher risk by the United States Department of Homeland Security. The NSGP is a competitive grant program and promotes emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration activities between public and private community representatives as well as state and local government agencies. Allowable costs are focused on target hardening activities. Funding can be used for the acquisition and installation of security equipment on real property, including buildings and improvements, owned or leased by the nonprofit organization, specifically in prevention of and/or protection against the risk of a terrorist attack. Equipment acquired under this grant program is usually limited to physical security enhancement equipment and inspection and screening systems. Among other things, an applicant must complete a vulnerability assessment.

Established by AB 1185 in 2024, the purpose of the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program is to provide funding support for security enhancements and target hardening and other security enhancements to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk for violent attacks and hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs, or mission, with requests for proposals announced every year

¹ Nonprofit Security Grant Program, <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/nonprofit-security>

since.² Prior to the Program's establishment, the State of California augmented the NSGP with an additional \$4.5 million, awarded to an additional 70 organizations. While the focus of the federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program has been on nonprofits located in urban areas, the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program (CSNPSGP) has enhanced security at nonprofits throughout the state.

Federal and State Hate Crime Statistics: Thousands of law enforcement agencies voluntarily submit data to the Federal Bureau of Investigations' (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting Program's (UCR) Hate Crime Statistics Data Collection on crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.³ On August 5, 2025, FBI's UCR Program released a 2024 hate crime statistics supplement about bias-motivated incidents throughout the nation. Nationally, reported hate crime incidents decreased 1.5 percent from 11,041 in 2023 to 10,873 in 2024.⁴ According to the FBI, there were over 11,323 single-bias incidents that involved 13,768 victims. 53.2% of these victims were targeted because of the offenders' race, ethnicity, and/or ancestry bias and 23.5% were targeted because of the offenders' religious bias.

In 2025, the Department of Justice released the 2024 Hate Crime in California Report, reporting on the number of hate crime events, hate crime offenses, victims of hate crimes, and suspects of hate crimes.⁵ For the purposes of this report, a hate crime refers to a criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity. According to the report, the number of victims of reported hate crimes increased 8.2% from 2,303 in 2023 to 2,491 in 2024. From 2023 to 2024, reported hate crimes involving racial bias or sexual orientation bias decreased, whereas hate crimes involving religion bias, gender bias, and multiple biases increased.

Arguments in Support: Jewish California (formerly JPAC, who is sponsoring the bill), write "the threat against the Jewish community and all vulnerable groups is growing. According to the California Attorney General's annual Hate Crimes report, hate crime events increased by 52% from 2020 to 2024 – with anti-Jewish and anti-Black bias events among the most prevalent every year. At the same time, demand for the CSNSGP has reached record levels. More than 1,600 organizations applied in the most recent funding cycle, collectively requesting over \$325 million in support. Since the program's inception in fiscal year 2015, the state has awarded nearly \$229 million in grants to 1,271 high-risk nonprofit organizations – a testament to how critical this program has become."

The California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus write in support, "hate crimes and violence continue to rise across the state, with California Attorney General data showing a 52% increase in hate crime events from 2020 to 2024. Many nonprofits – including LGBTQ+ organizations, houses of worship, and community centers – host events throughout their communities rather than in

² California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program (CSNSGP) <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Grants/Documents/RFP/FY-2025-CSNSGP-RFP.pdf>

³ Hate Crime Statistics , <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/more-fbi-services-and-information/ucr/hate-crime>

⁴ FBI Releases 2024 Reported Crimes in the Nation Statistics, <https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/fbi-releases-2024-reported-crimes-in-the-nation-statistics>

⁵ 2024 Hate Crime in California Report, <https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/Hate%20Crime%20In%20CA%202024.pdf>

permanent locations. These organizations often face significant, cost-prohibitive security challenges when planning public gatherings such as Pride celebrations, cultural festivals, and religious observances. While the CSNSGP has provided life-saving support for houses of worship, LGBTQ+ organizations, community centers, and reproductive rights centers, vulnerable communities are still at risk during public events. Many nonprofit organizations do not have a permanent physical location and instead host events throughout the community. With hate-motivated violence on the rise, gathering in this way is becoming more dangerous, and the need for greater security is often cost-prohibitive. This is a threat to community-building, especially for organizations without a physical community gathering center to fall back on. AB 1836 closes this critical gap by allowing CSNSGP funding to cover security costs for off-site events, ensuring that nonprofits can continue to build community safely. By supporting this bill, California will protect individuals from harm, preserve safe public spaces for vulnerable communities, and uphold the fundamental right to assemble and celebrate without fear.”

Related Legislation:

AB 1548 (Gabriel and Maienschein), Chapter 734, Statutes of 2019. This bill established the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program 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, as specified.

AB 57 (Gabriel), Chapter 691, Statutes of 2021. This bill requires the basic peace officer course curriculum to include instruction on the topic of hate crimes, which shall incorporate a specified hate crimes video developed by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)

AB 1664 (Gabriel), Chapter 398, Statutes of 2022. This bill further expanded AB 1548 that established the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program by authorizing grant money to be distributed to applicants for security enhancements, as specified. This bill also extended the operation of the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program indefinitely.

AB 1185 (Gabriel), Chapter 566, Statutes of 2023. This bill requires Cal OES to provide ongoing technical assistance, including a resource page and continuous outreach to stakeholders on available resources for vulnerability assessments, for nonprofit organizations that require vulnerability assessments of applicants when applying to the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

SB 101 (Wiener), Chapter 4, Statutes of 2025. This bill made appropriations for the support of state government for the 2025–26 fiscal year, including the provision for the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

30 Years After
Adat Shalom Los Angeles
Agudath Israel of California
AJC - Los Angeles

AJC - San Diego
AJC Northern California
Alliance for TransYouth Liberation
Anti-defamation League
Bay Area Center to Counter Antisemitism
Bay Area Jewish Coalition Education & Advocacy
Beverly Hills Synagogue
Board of Rabbis of Southern California
Brotherhood Crusade
California Association of Nonprofits
California Jewish Democrats
California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus
California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
Casita Feliz Latine LGBTQ+ Center
Centro CHA, Inc.
Chai Marin
Contra Costa Jewish Democrats
Courage California
El/la Para Translatinas
Equality California
Filipino American Arts Exposition
Gender Affirming Professionals
Gender Alchemy
Hadassah, the Women's Zionist of America, INC.
Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA)
Hillel of San Diego
Hindu American Foundation, INC.
Japantown Task Force
JCC/Federation of San Luis Obispo
JCRC Bay Area
JCRC, Jewish Long Beach
Jewish California (formerly JPAC)
Jewish Center for Justice
Jewish Center of Berkeley
Jewish Community Relations Council of Sacramento
Jewish Democratic Coalition of the Bay Area
Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties
Jewish Family Service LA
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Jewish Family Service of the Desert
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
Jewish Federation Bay Area
Jewish Federation Los Angeles
Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara
Jewish Federation of Orange County
Jewish Federation of San Diego
Jewish Federation of the Desert
Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys

Jewish Federation of Ventura County
Jewish Silicon Valley
JFCS East Bay
Kinmon Gakuen
Koreatown Youth and Community Center
Let's Kick Ass (AIDS Survivor Syndrome) Palm Springs
National Council of Jewish Women CA
Nihonmachi Street Fair
Northern California Jewish Labor Committee
Oakland Jewish Alliance
Palo Alto Jewish Alliance
PFLAG Clayton-Concord
PFLAG San Francisco
Progressive Zionists of California
Rainbow Families Action Bay Area
Sacramento LGBT Community Center
San Diego Pride
SF Jews in School
Somos Familia Valle
StandWithUs
The San Diego LGBT Community Center
The TransLatin@ Coalition
Valley Beth Shalom

Opposition

None on file.

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