

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

2019 VERMONT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE



MISSION

The Vermont Homeland Security Unit's mission is to support efforts to prevent, protect against, and prepare for threats and acts of terrorism against the State and its visitors.

Although counterterrorism is the main mission, many Homeland Security funded projects and initiatives support capabilities that can be applied to other threats and hazards as well.

GRANT PROGRAMS

- ❖ **State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP):** SHSP supports state, tribal, territorial, and local preparedness activities that address high priority gaps across all core capabilities that support terrorism preparedness.
- ❖ **Operation Stonegarden Grant Program (OPSG):** OPSG supports enhanced cooperation and coordination among Customs and Border Protection (CBP), United States Border Patrol (USBP), and Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies.
- ❖ **Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP):** NSGP provides funding support for physical security enhancements and other security activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack.

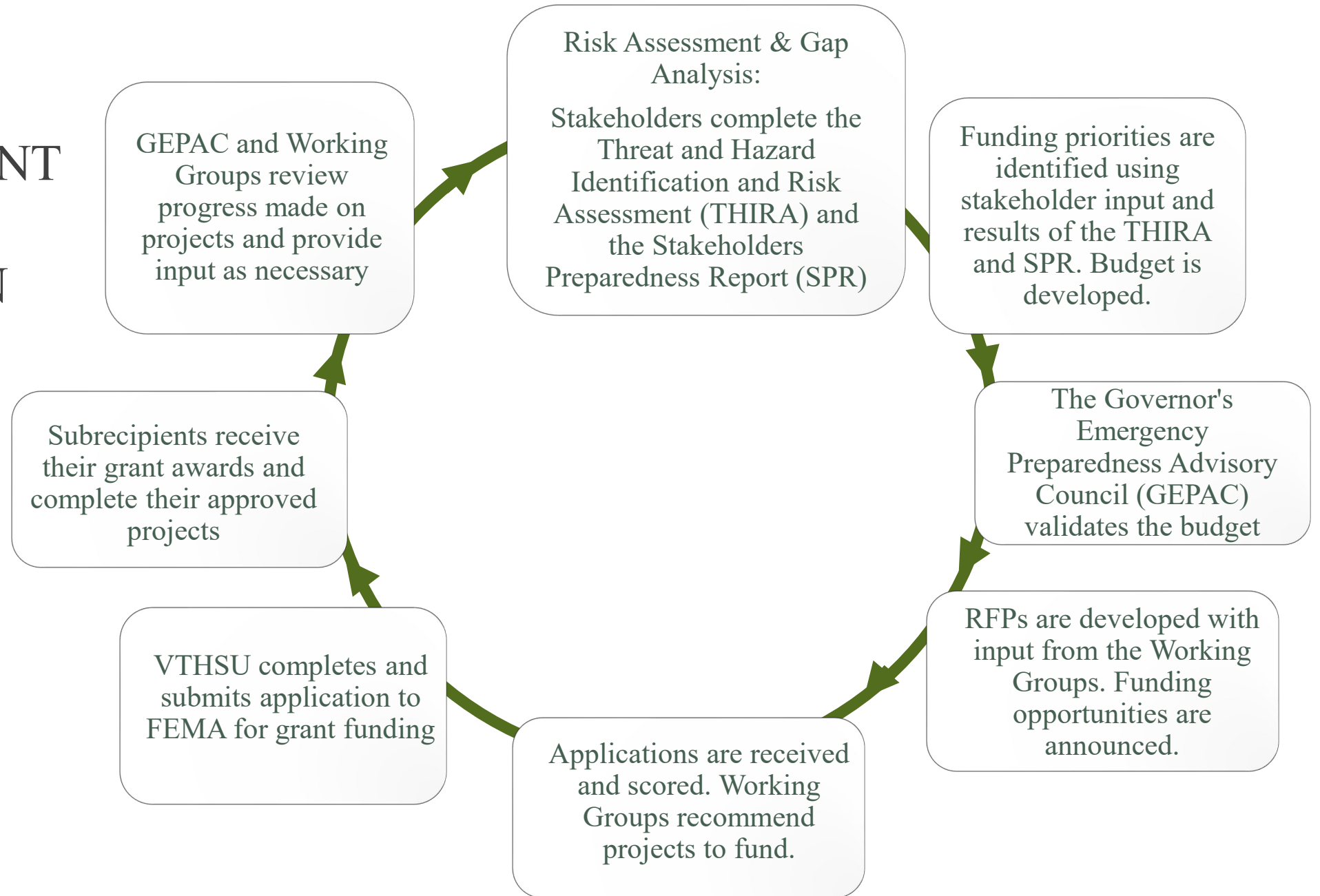
2017 – 2020 HOMELAND SECURITY UNIT STRATEGIC PLAN

The Vermont Homeland Security Unit developed a Strategic Plan for the period of 2017-2020

Major goals include:

- ❖ Scope programs and support them appropriately
- ❖ Develop a succession plan (Continuity of Operations Plan)
- ❖ Develop sustainable relationships with partners and the public
- ❖ Create long-term financial program models

PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT & FUNDING ALLOCATION



TIMELINE

Winter 2019:	Budget Drafting and Request for Proposal (RFP) Development (Local and State Awards)
January:	RFPs Posted
February 28:	Applications Due to Department of Public Safety
March to early April:	Application Review Period
April – TBD:	Vermont Application Prepared for Submission to FEMA
Fall 2020:	Funding Awarded to Department of Public Safety. Subgrants awarded.

WHERE DO I LOOK FOR INFORMATION?

All information regarding Request for Proposals, grant application(s), instructions, and all supporting documents can be found on the Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security website: <https://hsu.vermont.gov/homeland-security-unit>

When funding is available, funding opportunities will be:

- ❖ Posted on the Vermont Homeland Security website
- ❖ Sent out via email distribution lists

WHERE DO I LOOK FOR INFORMATION?

The RFP will outline:

- Application instructions
- Eligibility information
- Allowable projects and costs

After application materials are posted, but prior to application deadline, the Homeland Security Unit hosts call-in sessions to provide information and answer questions.



SEARCH

[Home](#)[Homeland Security Unit](#)[Border Security](#)[Funding Opportunities](#)[State Homeland Security Program \(SHSP\)](#)[Nonprofit Security Grant Program \(NSGP\)](#)[Operation Stonegarden Grant Program \(OPSG\)](#)[Frequently Asked Questions](#)[Policies and Procedures](#)[Working Groups & Memorandums of Understanding](#)[Preventative Radiological/Nuclear Detection Program](#)[State Strategy](#)[Waterway Security](#)[Homeland Security Unit Contacts](#)[Vermont Intelligence Center](#)[Amber Alert](#)[Missing Persons](#)[Vermont Special Events Reporting](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Vermont Homeland Security Unit administers the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) for the State of Vermont. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The State of Vermont designated the Vermont Department of Public Safety as the State Administrative Agency (SAA), with responsibilities pertaining to the Homeland Security Grants Directorate. Additionally, the Vermont Homeland Security Unit helps to ensure emergency responders are adequately prepared to respond to acts of terrorism. This preparation not only increases Vermont's emergency responders ability to respond to acts of terror, but other incidents as well, including natural disasters.

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)

The SHSP supports state, tribal, territorial, and local preparedness activities that address high priority preparedness gaps across all core capabilities that support terrorism preparedness.

2019 Application Period CLOSED.

Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)

NSGP provides funding support for physical security enhancements and other security activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack.

2019 Application Period CLOSED.

Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)

The OPSG Program supports enhanced cooperation and coordination among Customs and Border Protection (CBP), United States Border Patrol (USBP), and Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies. The OPSG Program provides funding to support joint efforts to secure the United States' borders along routes of ingress from



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Homeland Security

SEARCH

[Home](#)[Homeland Security Unit](#)[Border Security](#)[Funding Opportunities](#)[State Homeland Security Program \(SHSP\)](#)[Nonprofit Security Grant Program \(NSGP\)](#)[Operation Stonegarden Grant Program \(OPSG\)](#)[Frequently Asked Questions](#)[Policies and Procedures](#)[Working Groups & Memorandums of Understanding](#)[Preventative Radiological/Nuclear Detection Program](#)[State Strategy](#)[Waterway Security](#)[Homeland Security Unit Contacts](#)[Vermont Intelligence Center](#)[Amber Alert](#)[Missing Persons](#)[Vermont Special Events Reporting](#)

STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM (SHSP)

The application period is closed. Applications will not be accepted at this time. Check back in January for 2020 funding opportunities.

General Application Materials (One application must be completed per RFP. Please carefully review the RFP for complete application instructions)

[2019 Application Signature Page](#)

[2019 Homeland Security Grant Application](#)

Resources to Complete Application:

[2018 Homeland Security Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (for informational purposes only. 2019 is forthcoming.)

[Environmental and Historic Preservation \(EHP\) Information](#) (an EHP review may be required if your proposed project(s) have the potential to impact the environment, including but not limited to the construction of communication towers, modification or renovation of existing buildings, structures and facilities, or new construction including replacement of facilities.)

[Explanation of Application Requirements](#)

[FEMA Core Capabilities Definitions](#)

[Property Records List](#)

[2019 SHSP and OPSG Score Sheet](#)

[2019 HSGP Overview \(Powerpoint\)](#)

CLOSED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY:

Funding Opportunities:

STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

REQUESTED PROJECTS MUST:

- ❖ Meet all requirements listed in the Project Requirements for the applicable RFP
- ❖ Explains how the proposed project is related to terrorism
- ❖ If equipment, equipment must be listed on the FEMA Authorized Equipment List and be allowable per the RFP
- ❖ Describes the need for the proposed project and the gap(s) that it will fill

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ **At least one (1) investment** must be in support of the state cybersecurity efforts
- ❖ **One (1) single** investment must be in support of a designated fusion center (Vermont Intelligence Center)
- ❖ State Administrative Agency (SAA) must obligate at least **80%** of the funds to local units of government within 45 calendar days of receipt of the funds
- ❖ The SAA may retain more than **20%** of funding for expenditures made by the state on behalf of the local unit(s) of government. This may occur only with the written consent of the local unit of government, specifying the amount of funds to be retained and the intended use of funds.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (continued)

- ❖ At least **25%** of the combined HSGP funds must be dedicated towards law enforcement terrorism prevention activities
- ❖ All SAAs are allowed to utilize up to **50%** of their HSGP funding for personnel costs
- ❖ A maximum of up to **5%** of HSGP funds awarded may be retained by the state to be used solely for Management and Administration (M&A) purposes

WHAT IS FUNDING USED FOR?

- ❖ Vermont is typically level funded
- ❖ In 2019, Vermont was awarded \$4,077,500
- ❖ Previous investments include:
 - ❖ Preventative Radiological and Nuclear Detection equipment
 - ❖ Training and Exercise related to Homeland Security
 - ❖ Cybersecurity
 - ❖ Fusion Center (Vermont Intelligence Center)
 - ❖ Emergency Operations Center development

NEW INITIATIVES, WHY?

- ❖ The Homeland Security Unit is constantly adjusting efforts to address the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security of the state and the country.
- ❖ As a result of information from State, DPS, DHS, and local agencies, as well as the annual Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment/ Stakeholder Preparedness Report process, priorities are identified.

NEW INITIATIVES, WHY?

- ❖ Grant funds are intended to fund new initiatives and projects that will be sustained long term with non-HSGP funds.
- ❖ The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) has funded legacy projects for many years and most are now well developed and mature.
- ❖ Legacy projects must become sustained through State and local funding if these programs are important to State and local organizations and support from the HSGP should be eliminated.

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM: WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

- ❖ Completed Grant Application
- ❖ Three (3) quotes for equipment
- ❖ Completed HSGP Property Records List
- ❖ Department roster and/or vehicle roster
- ❖ Applicant's Procurement policy
- ❖ Written Conflict of Interest standards
- ❖ Completed Maintenance and Sustainment Plan
- ❖ Certificate of Insurance
- ❖ Copy of Cash Advance Policy, if requesting a Limited Cash Advance

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

- ❖ Compliance with the Vermont National Incident Management System Implementation Plan
- ❖ Current FCC License, if applicable
- ❖ Completed Financial Risk Assessment survey
- ❖ The Applicant is not listed on the Suspended and Debarred List
- ❖ The Applicant is not listed on the Restricted Parties List
- ❖ Duns & Bradstreet (DUNS#) and its activation in System for Award Management (SAM)
- ❖ Additional requirements specific to unique items (ex: PPE, items being installed, vehicles, etc.)
- ❖ **Applications must be submitted prior to the published deadline.**

APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA (EXAMPLES)

- ❖ The applicant describes the proposed project in detail.
- ❖ The applicant describes the need for the proposed project and the gap(s) that it will fill.
- ❖ The applicant describes how the gap was identified using data and/or information from risk and gap assessments, training, exercises, and real-world incidents.
- ❖ The applicant explains how the proposed project is related to terrorism.
- ❖ The applicant describes how project success will be measured.
- ❖ The applicant describes the plan for sustaining this project.
- ❖ The application contains complete and realistic milestones.
- ❖ The applicant has demonstrated a willingness to participate and cooperate in the State's effort to improve Core Capabilities.
- ❖ The use of this subgrant opportunity will increase the applicant's ability to better serve its constituents.
- ❖ Reviewer is confident that the project will contribute to improving Vermont's Core Capabilities.
- ❖ Reviewer is confident in the applicant's ability to properly use, report, and document the funds to be awarded.

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS SCORED?

- ❖ Each member of the Working Group will review each application independently;
- ❖ The Working Group will award a score of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) for each application as a group.
- ❖ The Working Group may choose to ask for additional documentation to review, as they see appropriate, to assist in the review and award process.
- ❖ If an agency has not met all of the eligibility requirements, a notification email is sent to the applicant, providing an opportunity for documentation to be provided to complete the application.

OPERATION STONEGARDEN GRANT PROGRAM

OPERATION STONEGARDEN OVERVIEW

- ❖ Funding under OPSG is distributed based on the risk to the security of the border. Entities eligible for funding are the state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies that are located along the border of the United States.
- ❖ All applicants must have active ongoing US Border Patrol operations coordinated through a Customs and Border Patrol sector office to be eligible for OPSG funding.
- ❖ Funding is used to support operational overtime and equipment.

NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

An eligible nonprofit organization under the FY 2019 NSGP was defined as an organization:

- Described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such code; refer to links below for additional information:

Note: The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) **does not require certain organizations such as churches, mosques, and synagogues to apply for and receive a recognition of exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the IRC. Such organizations are automatically exempt if they meet the requirements of section 501(c)(3).** These organizations are not required to provide recognition of exemption. For organizations that the IRS requires to apply for and receive a recognition of exemption under 501(c)(3), the state may or may not require recognition of exemption, as long as the method chosen is applied consistently.

- Determined to be at high risk of a terrorist attack by the Secretary of Homeland Security

ALLOWABLE COSTS (EXAMPLES)

Target Hardening - NSGP funding can be used for the acquisition and installation of security equipment on property, specifically in prevention of and/or protection against the risk of terrorist attack. Allowable equipment is limited to two categories within the Authorized Equipment List (AEL):

Security Enhancement Equipment (AEL Category 14)

- Examples: lighting, impact resistant doors, sensors and alarms, physical access control, locks, shatter resistant windows, cameras, etc.

Inspection and Screening Systems Equipment (AEL Category 15)

- Example: xray systems.

A COMPLETE LIST OF ALLOWABLE EQUIPMENT CAN BE FOUND ON THE [HSU WEBSITE](#). NO OTHER EQUIPMENT WILL BE APPROVED.

ALLOWABLE COSTS (EXAMPLES)

Security Related Training - NSGP funds may be used for security-related training courses and programs.

Allowable training-related costs are limited to attendance fees for training, and related expenses, such as materials, supplies, and/or equipment. Overtime, backfill, and/or travel expenses are not allowable costs. Allowable training topics are limited to the protection of critical infrastructure key resources, including physical and cybersecurity, target hardening, and terrorism awareness/employee preparedness including programs such as Active Shooter training and emergency first aid training.

UNALLOWABLE COSTS

- **Maintenance costs**
- **Overtime, backfill, and/or travel expenses**
- **Weapons or weapons related training**
- **Organization costs, and operational overtime costs**
- **Hiring of public safety personnel**
- **Reimbursement of pre-award security expenses**
- General-use expenditures
- Initiatives that do not address the implementation of programs/initiatives to build prevention and protection-focused capabilities directed at identified facilities and/or the surrounding communities
- The development of risk/vulnerability assessment models
- Initiatives that fund risk or vulnerability security assessments or the development of the IJ
- Initiatives in which Federal agencies are the beneficiary or that enhance Federal property
- Initiatives which study technology development
- Proof-of-concept initiatives
- Initiatives that duplicate capabilities being provided by the Federal Government
- Organizational operating expenses

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

To be eligible:

- The applicant must not be listed on the suspended and debarred list
- The applicant must not be listed on the Restricted Parties List
- Have written conflict of interest standards
- The applicant must be NIMS compliant according to the current Vermont Implementation plan found on the Vermont Emergency Management Website (<https://vem.vermont.gov/programs/nims>).
- Applicants must have a valid DUNS number and be currently active with the System for Award Management (SAM).
- Applicants must meet eligibility requirements under section “What Can I Apply For?”.

AND

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

The following MUST be submitted:

- Complete application submitted as an excel document
- Signature page submitted as a PDF
- Procurement Standards
- Vulnerability Assessment
- Certificate of Insurance (COI) with current coverage
- Financial risk assessment survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VTDPsrisksurvey>) completed in the last six months
- Supporting documentation as required below, based on your proposed project

AND

If your project...	You must provide the following:
<i>Is not a Ideology-based/Spiritual/Religious organization</i>	Documentation demonstrating 501(c)3 status from the IRS.
<i>is too large for your agency to accomplish in a reimbursement (after-the-fact) in arrears of expenses, you may request pre-payment on a "Limited Cash Advance" basis.</i>	<p>A copy of agency's Cash Advance Policy must be included in the application <u>AND</u> your Agency's cash advance policy must meet the following requirement:</p> <p>A subrecipient must have procedures in place to be compliant with 2 CFR 200.305 as well as 15 USC 1601 Electronic Fund Transfer Act. The subrecipient must deposit cash advance in an interest bearing account (with some regulatory exceptions) and report any federal grant interest annually to the U.S. Department of Human Services, Payment Management Division.</p>
<i>is requesting equipment</i>	Three (3) equipment quotes for all single items valued at more than \$100.00 per unit. Quotes may be from valid websites, catalogs, vendors, etc.
<i>is requesting a vendor-offered training</i>	A vendor provided course description or syllabus.
<i>is requesting an increase in the quantity of NSGP-funded equipment already owned by the applicant.</i>	<p>Completed Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Property Records List. A template for the Property Records List can be found by accessing the following link: https://hsu.vermont.gov/homeland-security-unit/funding-opportunities/faq Note: replacement equipment will not be funded.</p>

PRIORITIZATION

Organization:

1. Ideology-based/Spiritual/Religious
2. Educational, including childcare facilities
3. Medical
4. Other

Request:

1. Training
2. Hardening Requests (physical security/infrastructure equipment and target hardening activities)
3. Cameras or Camera Systems (surveillance camera systems that are real-time, live-feed and monitored)

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS SCORED?

- The Working Group consists of representatives from religious organizations, the law enforcement community and nonprofit organizations.
- Each member of the Working Group will review each application independently.
- A score will be calculated for each application.
- The Working Group will utilize the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) Scoring Worksheet as developed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
 - The 2020 criteria is forthcoming from DHS. The criteria that was utilized for 2019 can be found on the Department of Public Safety: Homeland Security website

WHAT ABOUT PROGRAMMATIC MONITORING?

- ❖ This is not a Financial Audit but a visit to ensure funds were spent appropriately, documentation is in order, and provide assistance if needed. **Advance notice is given**
- ❖ Programmatic Monitoring will be focused on open grant awards.
- ❖ Process starts with the VTHSU reaching out to a community to schedule the visit. The community will receive a letter to confirm the date/time of the visit, what to expect during the visit and the necessary documentation to be provided prior to the visit.
- ❖ The VTHSU will meet with the community, view the grant purchased items, and ask a series of questions regarding the grant process, NIMS, and training or exercising needs.
- ❖ The VTHSU will prepare a report outlining the visit, strengths and areas for improvement or concern within the community. If necessary, a corrective action plan will be developed.
- ❖ Once the requirements are complete, the monitoring visit will be closed.

QUESTIONS?

[HTTP://HSU.VERMONT.GOV/HOMELAND-SECURITY-UNIT](http://hsu.vermont.gov/homeland-security-unit)

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