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## **60 Jewish + Multifaith Organizations and Over 115 Faith Leaders Reject Repressive New Conditions of the Department of Homeland Security's Nonprofit Security Grants Program**

*"We pledge to halt and withdraw any applications for funding until the DHS removes the alarming restrictions for grantees that require compliance with ICE, forbid diversity, equity, and inclusion programming, and prohibit legally-protected boycotts in support of Palestinian rights."*

Link to letter: [communitysafetycampaign.org/nsgp-letter/](https://communitysafetycampaign.org/nsgp-letter/)

**New York, NY** – Faith leaders and organizations across the U.S. have signed onto a [public letter](#) challenging the Department of Homeland Security's Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), following alarming new requirements issued by the DHS.

The new [FY 2025 Grant Terms and Conditions](#) for DHS grants, including grants intended for nonprofit security expenditures, will require grantees to 1) coordinate with federal immigration enforcement, 2) terminate programs that advance diversity, equity and inclusion, and 3) not participate in constitutionally-protected boycotts. (None of these conditions were previously included).

The NSPG was created in 2005 and has provided [hundreds of millions of dollars](#) per year in grants to support security infrastructure while promoting close collaboration between grant recipients and law enforcement. The funding has largely been directed towards Jewish organizations: a [2021 analysis](#) found that between 2008 and 2020, Jewish organizations were awarded a total of \$170.3 million, 91%, of allocated NSGP funds. Many of these communities are actively engaged in DEI programming and supporting local immigrants and refugees, which are compromised under the new DHS Terms and Conditions.

In response, this public letter, signed on by dozens of rabbis and Jewish organizations states, **"Safety cannot be achieved by criminalizing, silencing, detaining and deporting the most vulnerable members of our communities."** The organizational signatories of the letter represent tens of thousands of members of nonprofits, congregations, and community organizations across the US, including the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Unitarian Universalist congregations, and Reconstructionist, Reform, Conservative, and

non-denominational synagogues. The full list of signatories is available [here](#) and faith leaders from multiple denominations are available for interviews.

Instead of relying on DHS funding, until these conditions are fully removed, the signatories of the letter pledge to continue working towards greater safety through training programs, safety planning efforts and investing in relationships with neighboring communities to develop locally-based collaborations. And, they urge elected officials to shift federal funding for nonprofit security needs out of the DHS.

"Participating in religious services is a sacred act that should not put people in jeopardy. A house of worship should be a safe space, not one where worshippers are in fear of ICE coming in to arrest them," said **Rabbi Suzanne Singer, Emerita Rabbi of Temple Beth El in Riverside, CA**. "Therefore, I object to security grants being contingent on cooperation with ICE."

"As the pastor of a congregation who has been a former recipient of these needed funds, safety of everyone where they worship should be paramount," said **Rev. Julie Conrady of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham, AL**. "I strongly recommend the caveats be removed so that every community that needs enhanced safety measures can receive such."

"This shows that if we want to keep our Jewish communities and beloved partners safe from the rising threats of antisemitic and white supremacist violence, we cannot continue relying on the Department of Homeland Security," said **Nadav David, a Jewish organizer with the Community Safety Campaign**. "Since it was created in 2001, the DHS has criminalized, surveilled, and harmed communities of color, especially immigrants and Muslim communities, which directly contradict the social justice issues we as Jews care deeply about. Our communities need to be actively working to develop new structures, resources and funding sources beyond for community safety now and into the future."

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### **Current Press Coverage**

- [A Federal Security Grant Program Popular with Jewish Organizations May Now Require Beneficiaries to Cooperate with ICE](#) (Jewish Currents, August 2025)
- [Will federal security grants require synagogues to cooperate with ICE? Concerns are running high](#) (JTA, August 2025)
- [CT Jewish leaders denounce new rules for federal security grants](#) (CT Mirror, August 2025)

### **About the Community Safety Campaign**

The Community Safety Campaign, authors of “[Bringing Safety through Solidarity to Life](#),” are a national team of Jewish organizers committed to building safer communities through developing practices and resources that rely on enduring relationships of trust and solidarity rather than reliance on law enforcement and militarized security.