ACTION 1ST
INNOVATIVE BUSINESS SECURITY

2026-27 EDITION · CALIFORNIA

Church Security Grant Readiness Checklist

Get your congregation ready for the next federal NSGP or state CSNSGP round before Cal OES opens the window. Four printable pages for the church office, the safety team and whoever writes the application.



INSIDE

Which program fits · Eligibility check
Documents to gather · The vulnerability assessment
A grant-ready scope · Milestones and door worksheets

Since 1984
Action 1st Loss Prevention, Inc.

01 · START HERE

Which grant fits your church

California houses of worship can apply to two programs, both administered by Cal OES. Each one opens about once a year for four to eight weeks, so the churches that score well have this work done before the announcement.

	FEDERAL NSGP (FY 2026 ROUND)	STATE CSNSGP (2025-26 ROUND)
Funded by	FEMA / DHS, run in California by Cal OES	California state budget, run by Cal OES
Maximum award	$200,000 per site, up to 3 sites per area	$250,000 per location, up to 2 locations ($500,000)
Orange County applies as	NSGP-UA, Anaheim/Santa Ana urban area	Statewide pool
Last window	NOFO June 24, 2026; Cal OES deadline July 10, 2026	Oct 31 to Dec 12, 2025
Period of performance	Sept 1, 2026 to May 31, 2029	Mar 1, 2026 to Dec 31, 2027
What you submit	Investment Justification, VA Worksheet, Mission Statement	Application Form, VA Worksheet, supporting documents
Scoring	40 points, plus 15 for first-time NSGP applicants	48 points; 40 or more to be considered

Figures from the most recent rounds as of November 2026. Limits and dates change each round, so confirm them in the current Cal OES notice. You can apply to both programs, but not for the same equipment.

ELIGIBILITY CHECK

Both programs

- [ ] We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, exempt under section 501(a).
  Churches are automatically exempt and do not need an IRS letter. If you have a determination letter, include it.
- [ ] We occupy the building we want to secure, today.
- [ ] We own it, or the landlord will give written permission to install security equipment.
- [ ] We can name the risk: attack or hate crimes because of our beliefs, ideology or mission.
- [ ] Nothing we plan to request is already paid for by another grant.

PICK YOUR PATH

Program fit

- [ ] We are a California nonprofit (required for CSNSGP).
- [ ] We have never received NSGP funding (worth 15 bonus points on the federal side).
- [ ] We have more than one campus. Each site or location needs its own complete application.
- [ ] If we apply to both, we will split the scope so no item is in both requests.
- [ ] We have signed up for window alerts so we hear when the next round opens.
  action1st.com/resources/church-security-grant-california/

WHO DOES WHAT

Your church (or a grant writer you hire) writes and submits the application. A qualified assessor, or your own team, completes the vulnerability assessment. An installer walks the campus and prices the equipment. Action 1st does only the last part, and installs after you are awarded.

02 · GATHER IT NOW

Documents to have ready

Check these off months ahead. Most of them do not depend on the grant round, and the window is too short to start from zero.

FEDERAL NSGP

Three documents, one email per site

- [ ] Investment Justification (FEMA fillable PDF).
  Use the current version from Cal OES. Do not alter the form.
- [ ] Cal OES Vulnerability Assessment Worksheet, current version.
- [ ] Mission Statement on church letterhead.
  Who you are, what you do and why. Not scored, but required.
- [ ] 501(c)(3) determination letter, if you have one.
- [ ] UEI from SAM.gov for each site.
  Not needed to apply. Required before you can accept an award, so start early.

STATE CSNSGP

Form, worksheet, supporting documents

- [ ] Application Form, current version.
- [ ] Cal OES Vulnerability Assessment Worksheet, current version.
- [ ] Proof you own or lease the site.
  Utility bill, deed, title, property tax bill, mortgage statement or lease.
- [ ] Landlord letter on letterhead allowing the install, if you lease.
- [ ] Google Map or footprint of the building with square footage.
- [ ] Parent organization letter, if you use its FEIN.

FORMATTING RULES THAT GET APPLICATIONS REJECTED

Cal OES does not consider scanned copies, combined files, zip files, embedded links, altered or prior versions of forms, duplicates, or anything sent late or to the wrong address. One location per email.

The vulnerability assessment: who does it

The assessment names the threats, the weak points of your campus and the consequences. Every item you request has to tie back to it, or reviewers may not fund it.

- [ ] We will self-assess, or use someone with a security, emergency services, military or law enforcement background (active or retired).
- [ ] We have looked at CISA's free Houses of Worship Security Self-Assessment.
  cisa.gov/houses-worship-security-self-assessment
- [ ] We know we can ask Cal OES's Critical Infrastructure Protection unit for help finding assessment resources.
  va@caloes.ca.gov
- [ ] Our assessor is not the company that will bid the install.
  Cal OES's FY 2026 NSGP guidance bars a security company that prepares your assessment from bidding on or contracting for the installation.
- [ ] If we have an older assessment that is still current, we will move it onto the current worksheet version.

WHY WE WILL NOT WRITE YOUR ASSESSMENT

Action 1st is an installer. Preparing your assessment would disqualify us from your install under the federal rule, so we price the fixes after your assessment is done.

03 · PRICE THE FIXES

What a grant-ready itemized scope includes

The federal application accepts only its three documents, so the quote is not attached. It supplies the content for the security enhancements, milestones and budget sections, which carry the most weight.

- [ ] Every opening listed by location (lobby doors, office, children's wing, side gates), matching the names in your assessment.
- [ ] Equipment per door: reader, locking hardware, door position switch, request-to-exit, power supply.
- [ ] Each line tied to the vulnerability it addresses.
- [ ] Quantities, unit cost and installed cost for every item, so the request matches what the work costs.
- [ ] Controllers and cloud management, including one-button lockdown if your plan calls for it.
- [ ] Cameras listed with what each one covers (entrances, parking lot, check-in). No license-plate reading or facial recognition cameras under NSGP.
- [ ] Exit doors called out, with hardware that keeps free egress and releases with the fire alarm. The local fire marshal (OCFA in most of Orange County) signs off.
- [ ] Labor, programming, training and any permit work on their own lines.
- [ ] Software licensing shown separately. Plan to pay it from your operating budget after the grant period.
- [ ] An install timeline in weeks that fits inside the period of performance.
- [ ] The installer's CSLB license number and proof of insurance.

Typical Orange County pricing: about $3,000 to $4,000 per door installed, $3,500 to $6,000 or more for doors with panic hardware, glass or other complications, and roughly $10 to $30 per door per month in software.

Common mistakes

1. **Buying before the award.** Pre-award purchases are not reimbursed. Get the quote now and schedule the install after the award and the start of the period of performance.
2. **A wish list instead of a fix list.** "Cameras everywhere" with no documented risk scores poorly. Every line needs a vulnerability behind it.
3. **Letting the installer write the assessment.** Under the federal competition rule, that installer can no longer bid your project.
4. **Missing proof of occupancy.** The state program wants the deed, bill or lease, the landlord letter and a footprint with square footage.
5. **Starting when the window opens.** Federal and state dates move every year. The assessment and scope take longer than most windows last.

WHAT THE GRANTS WILL NOT PAY FOR

The vulnerability assessment itself, staff time and operating costs. Installing equipment is not construction, but true construction or renovation needs prior FEMA approval and is capped at 15% of an NSGP award; the state program caps it at $100,000.

04 · PRINT AND FILL IN

Milestones and door worksheet

Use the milestones table for the application's timeline section. Fill in the door worksheet before the site walk so it goes faster.

MILESTONE	TARGET DATE	OWNER	DONE
Eligibility confirmed, alerts signed up			
Vulnerability assessment complete			
Site walk and itemized scope received			
Mission statement and supporting documents			
Application submitted to Cal OES			
Award notice; UEI in place (NSGP)			
Environmental and historic review cleared (NSGP)			
Bids final, install scheduled around services			
Install complete, invoices filed			

DOOR OR ZONE	EXT. / INT.	WHO USES IT	VULNERABILITY (FROM VA)	EXIT DOOR?	FIX (READER, LOCK, CAMERA)
e.g. Main lobby	Ext.	Public, Sundays	Unlocked all week	Yes	Reader, schedule, intercom

Count every exterior door, the office, the children's wing and any gates. Note which doors are fire exits; those keep free egress no matter what is installed.

NEXT STEP

Book a free site walk before the window opens.

Once your assessment is done, we walk your campus and give you an itemized, grant-ready scope with equipment, quantities, costs and an install timeline. After you are awarded, we install it around your service calendar.

What you get from the walk

- A door-by-door scope that lines up with your assessment
- Installed costs for the budget section
- An install timeline for the milestones section
- Exit doors flagged, with hardware that keeps free egress

What we do not do

- Vulnerability assessments (it would bar us from your install)
- Grant writing or submitting the application
- Installs before the award
- We are not affiliated with FEMA or Cal OES

CALL US

(949) 661-3010

Mon to Fri, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Get a grant-ready quote:
action1st.com/get-a-quote/

The full grant guide:
action1st.com/resources/church-security-grant-california/

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