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Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP)

**State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2027
Protecting Against Hate Crimes (PAHC)**

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

Applicant Technical Assistance Call
Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Tuesday, April 14, 2026

gocpp.maryland.gov/grants/



General Housekeeping

- Subtitles and Translation Services are available by enabling Closed Caption and/or Interpretation in the navigation panel at the bottom of the screen 
- To ask questions, please type them in the chat. Panelists may ask you to unmute and clarify aloud if necessary.
- The presentation will be posted to the [PAHC grant program page](#) on the GOCPP website.

GOCPP- PAHC Team: Introductions



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Nikita Stackhouse
Grant Monitor

Nikita.Stackhouse@maryland.gov

Sharon Leason
Funding Manager

Sharon.Leason@maryland.gov

Dorothy Lee
Fiscal Specialist

Dorothy.Lee@maryland.gov



Technical Assistance Objectives

Understand key concepts related to submission of an application under PAHC, including:

- Goals and priorities of this program
- Eligibility - Changes from previous years
- Award information
- Application requirements - New requirements
- Application review process

PAHC Overview

Established in 2020 to help non-profit organizations enhance security measures for facilities at risk of **Hate Crimes**. Eligibility is based on the presence of members or visitors who belong to a protected class, as defined in [§§10–301 through §10–305.1 of the Criminal Law Article](#). Under Maryland law, protected classes include individuals distinguished by religion, race, color, sexual orientation, gender, disability, national origin, and homelessness.

The Protecting Against Hate Crimes (PAHC) Grant program is specifically designed to address a documented and recent risk of **hate crime** victimization. Applicants should be able to point to current events or trends that demonstrate their facility serves or has members that belong to a protected class (based on religion, race, color, sexual orientation, gender, disability, national origin, and homelessness) facing a substantial threat of **hate crimes**.

PAHC Overview continued . . .

An applicant who serves or has members belonging to a protected class must also demonstrate a direct connection between their funding request and the **risk of hate crimes.**

Organizations that are at high risk of **terrorist attack** seeking support for broader security concerns may consider the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) through the [Nonprofit Security Grant Program \(NSGP\) through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#). * Note: this is only a suggestion. This office does handle this grant program.

PAHC Overview continued . . .

This funding is for **Hate Crime** and not crime. The state of Maryland does offer other grant programs that may assist for security improvements to protect against crime. Please look at the grant programs offered by the [Maryland Historical Trust](#) and the [Maryland Heritage Areas Authority](#). (This office does not work with these programs and the programs listed above are only suggestions for possible funding.)

Applications must clearly align with documented or demonstrable risks related to **hate crimes** to be considered for PAHC funding.



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Funding Eligibility

The following entities, with facilities located in Maryland, are eligible to submit one (1) application for SFY 2027 Protecting Against Hate Crimes (PAHC) funding:

- Nonprofit organizations recognized under 501(c)(3), including faith-based organizations.

Special Note: Certain organizations, including churches, mosques, and synagogues, are not required to obtain a formal IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter. To verify nonprofit status, these organizations must submit all of the following:

- IRS Employer Identification Number (EIN) Confirmation Letter
- Signed board statement confirming the organization's exempt religious status under Section 501(c)(3)
- Governing documents (Bylaws/Articles)
- [Group Exemption Letter](#) from the national denomination, if applicable

Funding Eligibility

Priority Consideration

Applicants demonstrating the following will receive priority during final funding decisions:

- *Organizations that provide evidence of direct or immediate threats related to hate crimes or have recently experienced hate crime incidents.
- Evidence provided must pertain to the facility, the county, the State of Maryland and nationally.
- *Organizations applying for PAHC funds for the first time or those that have not received PAHC funding in the past three fiscal years.
- This does not mean you will not receive funding if you have received an award in the last three years.



Funding Eligibility

Important Note: School-based facilities are not eligible for SFY 2027 PAHC funds. Organizations with school-based facilities on their campuses must exclude those facilities from their PAHC application but may request funding for other eligible portions of their campus. Organizations seeking funding for school-based facilities are encouraged to explore grant opportunities through the Maryland Center for School Safety: [Maryland Center for School Safety Grants](#).

If an organization has multiple facilities requesting grant funds, all funding requests must be combined into a single application. In the **Service Site** tab of the **Grant Management System (GMS)**, applicants must list the physical address of each facility that will utilize the funds. The same entity must still adhere to the [funding limitation](#) (to be discussed on next slide).



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Funding Amounts Limitations

Eligible applicants may request funding based on their organization's annual budget as follows:

- Organizations with an annual budget **under \$500,000: Up to \$50,000**
- Organizations with an annual budget **between \$500,000 to \$5,000,000: Up to \$100,000**
- Organizations with an annual **budget over \$5,000,000: Up to \$200,000**

Verification Requirement: Applicants must upload their most recent financial documentation with their application by the stated deadline. Acceptable documentation may include the organization's most recent IRS Form 990, audited financial statements, a certified organizational operating budget, or other equivalent financial documentation demonstrating the organization's annual operating budget. Failure to provide adequate financial documentation may affect eligibility for SFY 2027 PAHC funding.

Acceptable Forms of Documentation Confirming Organization's Budget

Verification Requirements that must be uploaded with the application by Friday, April 24, 2026.

Documents that can be used to verify your **Annual Budget**:

- most recent IRS Form 990
- audited financial statements
- a certified organizational operating budget
- other equivalent financial documentation demonstrating the organization's annual operating budget

Failure to provide adequate financial documentation may affect eligibility for SFY 2027 PAHC funding.

Award Details

- Application Due Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 11:59pm
- Period of Performance: July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
- Anticipated Total Amount Available to Award: \$10,000,000
- Last day to request a User ID is Friday, April 17, 2026

PAHC Funding Priorities:



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- **Physical Security Enhancements:**

- To include surveillance cameras, alarm systems, hardened doors/windows, security fences and improved lighting.

- **Note:** Door and window hardening is the process of reinforcing doors and windows with stronger materials, locks, and security devices to prevent unauthorized entry.

- Security personnel to enhance on-site safety and threat response

- **Community Engagement and Education:**

- Anti-hate public awareness campaigns
- Cultural competency workshops
- Bystander intervention training

- **Emergency Preparedness:**

- Development of emergency response plans
- Active threat drills to improve organizational readiness

Program Narrative

All applicants are **required** to adhere to the word limits applied to each section of their narrative:

- Overall Organization Information (Word Limit: 500)
- Problem Statement/Needs Justification (Word Limit: 500)
- Program Purpose Area (Word Limit: 150)
- Project Design (Word Limit: 750)
- Goals & Objectives (Word Limit: 1,500)
- Data Collection Plan (Word Limit: 250)
- Grant Personnel (Word Limit: 500)
- Sustainability (Word Limit: 200)
- Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications Statement (Word Limit: 150)
- Budget Details and Spending Plan (Word Limit: 750)

✦ **NEW** - [Organizational Capacity Questionnaire \(OCQ\)](#)

How to see word count

The screenshot displays the GMS application interface. On the left is a 'Grant Menu' sidebar with options: Search, Face Sheet, Officers, Service Sites, Summary, Narrative (highlighted with a black box), Budget, Budget Priority, Print, Documents, and Activity Log. The main content area has a top bar with 'Save' and 'Generate Report' buttons, and a red warning: 'Please remember to save your narrative every 15 minutes! IMPORTANT CHANGES - See [GMS Application Instructions](#) for narrative guidance.'

The 'OVERALL ORGANIZATION INFORMATION (WORD LIMIT: 500)' section is highlighted with a black box and an arrow. Below it, instructions state: 'Provide the following information about your organization in the outline format below:'. The instructions include:

- A. **Mission Statement:** State your agency's mission and upload your most recent Organizational Chart into the GMS.
- B. **Brief Overview:** Include your organization's history, primary services, the client/community needs currently addressed, and highlight any key milestones and achievements in the field.
- C. **Key Organizational Information (in bullet format):**
 - i. Total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees
 - ii. Total current organizational budget.
 - iii. Percentage of your organizational budget this application is requesting.
 - iv. Primary jurisdictions your organization serves (e.g., counties, cities, neighborhoods).
 - v. Primary client population your organization serves and how long you have served this population.

A blue box labeled 'Narrative section word limit' points to the 'WORD LIMIT: 500' text.

Below the instructions, a text area for the narrative is shown with a rich text editor toolbar. A blue box labeled 'Current word count (narrative response)' points to the 'Words: 120' status at the bottom right of the text area. The status also shows 'Characters: 921'.



Organization Information (Word Limit: 500)

- **Organization Overview:** Include the following details about your organization:
 - **Type of Organization** (e.g., 501(c)(3) nonprofit, faith-based organization, government entity)
 - **Facility Address:** Physical and mailing addresses of the facility that will utilize grant funds
 - **Hours of Operation**
 - **Program/Service Overview:** Types of programs, services, and events typically held at the facility that will benefit from grant funds. This can include any ongoing or special initiatives.

Organization Information (Word Limit: 500) - continued



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- **Key Organizational Information:**
 - **Staffing Overview:** Total number of staff (including volunteers) working directly at the facility utilizing grant funds.
 - **Total Organizational Budget:** Most recent total budget for the organization. This must coincide with the budget documents you submitted.
 - **Primary Service Jurisdiction:** Counties, cities, or neighborhoods that your organization primarily serves.
 - **Population Served:** The primary population served by your organization (e.g., youth, seniors, minority groups) and the length of time you have been serving this group. **Note: Do not include any school-based populations.**
 - **Population Reach:** Average number of individuals served on a **daily, weekly** and **annual** basis (include any relevant demographic data, if possible). Note, do not include any school-based populations.

Problem Statement/Needs Justification (Word Limit: 500)



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- **Description of the Problem:**

- Identify the specific hate crime or bias-related threat impacting your facility or community.
- Provide details on recent incidents, patterns, or trends related to hate crimes in your area.

- **Community Impact:**

- Describe the populations affected (e.g., religious, racial, LGBTQ+ communities).
- Explain how these crimes or threats impact your facility's operations, programming, or security.

- **Existing Challenges & Security Gaps:**

- Outline current security vulnerabilities at your facility.
- Explain any limitations (e.g., lack of surveillance, outdated security measures, resource constraints) that increase risk.

- **Supporting Data & Evidence:**

- Reference any relevant hate crime data, local law enforcement reports, or documented incidents that occurred within the facility, the county, the State of Maryland and nationally.
- Justify the funding request based on the incidence and severity of hate crimes in the applicant's local community.

Problem Statement/Needs Justification (Word Limit: 500)



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continued

- **New or Continuing Efforts?**

- Did your organization receive GOCPP funding in the most recent funding cycle for a similar project? (Yes or No)
 - **If no:** Describe efforts your organization has made to address the identified needs without prior PAHC funding.
 - **If yes:** Provide the following details:
 - **Award Amount:** State the amount of your previous PAHC grant awards since 2019.
 - **Additional Funding Sources:** List all funding sources and amounts that supported similar efforts in the past three fiscal years.
 - **Previously Funded Items:** Summarize the items previously funded with PAHC grants.
 - **Funding Increase Request (if applicable):** If requesting additional funds, explain the need and how the increased funding will improve outcomes.



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Program Purpose Area

The same as the prior application. However, Be sure to follow the GMS Application instructions



Project Design

- Describe how your organization will implement the proposed security enhancements to address the identified problem. Use the outline below to ensure your response aligns with the PAHC program requirements.
- Include the following (if applicable):
 - Project Implementation and Security Enhancements
 - Community Awareness & Outreach
 - Use of Best Practices & Industry Standards
 - If you have security assessments completed be sure to include documentation of the assessments and the recommendations.
 - Partnerships & Stakeholder Involvement

At a minimum, the design must include the program elements in the outline format found on the [GMS Application Instructions](#) and the [PAHC NOFA](#).

Goals and Objectives

Data Collection Plan

Grant Personnel



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Same as prior NOFA requirements.

Sustainability Disclosure of Pending Applications Samples

Same as prior NOFA requirements.

Budget and Spending Plan



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All budget line items must be reasonable, allocable and prorated to the project proposed for funding.

Allowable Costs:

PERSONNEL

- Hiring of staff to provide security of the facility.

TRAVEL

- Costs associated with staff attending safety/crime prevention training (i.e. mileage, lodging, meal reimbursement/per diem, ground transportation)

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

- External services for facility enhancement that directly support safety/enhancements against hate crimes.
- Contracting with a local/state law enforcement agency or private security firm to provide a security, facility risk assessment or to provide training to staff on security measures.
- Note: Please refer to the [Consultant Rate](#) section below for limitations.
- Administrative Costs are Unallowable.

Budget



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Allowable Costs Continued:

EQUIPMENT

- Safety equipment, facility upgrades and/or surveillance security systems that directly enhance building/membership safety
- Equipment is defined as having a useful life in excess of one year and a procurement cost of \$10,000 or more per unit. Costs may include delivery, installation, and similarly related charges. Equipment with a unit cost less than \$10,000 should be recorded in the 'Other' category (see below).
- [Property Inventory Record Forms \(PIRF\)](#) will be required post award for all equipment purchased with grant funds. (A PIRF form maybe required for items that cost less than \$10,000 per item.)

OTHER

- Limited to direct security enhancements that do not fall into the previous categories which could include equipment with a useful life less than one year and a procurement cost of less than \$10,000.

Budget



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Unallowable Costs:

- Supplanting existing funds (Replacing state, local, or other federal funds with PAHC funds)
- Reimbursement of pre-award costs
- Construction or major renovations (including new facility construction, structural modifications, or capital improvements)
- Lobbying or political activities
- Fundraising or **grant-writing costs**
- Vehicle purchases or leases
- Weapons, firearms, or ammunition (including associated accessories such as **bulletproof vests**)
- **Administrative fees**
- Food, beverages, or entertainment expenses
- Live animals or animal-related expenses
- Personal expenses or stipends
- Membership dues to organizations unrelated to the program
- Fines, penalties, or legal fees
- Goods and services for personal use, such as **security for personal residences or private dwellings.**

Note: There is **no match required for this funding source**. Do **NOT** enter a match into your budget. If you wish to show other financial or in-kind contributions to your program, it may be written into your narrative.

Budget Line Item for Contractual



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Contractual

For security contracts please use the following format:

1. Under contractual list the name of the company/contract under description.
2. For Quantity, state 1
3. For Unit Cost, state the contract's total cost.
4. For the Justification, state the hourly pay rate and the hours they will work

Here is a picture of what it should look like:

In this example the applicant has not determined the company they will be using for Security, so the budget line states TBD. As you can see this contract line item shows they will have two guards and the justification states each guard's hours and pay rate.

Contractual Services		\$114,530.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$114,530.00
Description	Funding	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Budget	Just.
Firm TBD- Guard Services	Grant Funds	1	\$77,558.00	\$77,558.00	This one g [...more...]
Firm TBD- Guard Services	Grant Funds	1	\$36,972.00	\$36,972.00	This secon [...more...]
Equipment			\$0.00	\$0.00	This second guard is paid a rate of \$41 an hour, 29 hours per week. The additional funds of \$14,530 will cover an additional 6.5 hours for this guard.
Other			\$0.00	\$0.00	

Required Documents

The following documents are **required** to be submitted with your application:

- Certified Assurances
- Certification Regarding Lobbying
- Most Recent Organizational Chart
- Screenshot of SAM.gov/Unique Entity Identifier Registration
- Proof of 501 (c)(3)
- Current W-9
- Recent IRS 990 or other **financial statements**
- Certificate of Applicable Financial Reporting Requirements and Required Financial Report Uploading
- Determination of Suitability to Interact with Minors Form
- ✨ Organizational Capacity Questionnaire (OCQ)
(Once you have completed the OCQ, you do not need to UPLOAD it in the document section)



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Required Documents



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Risk Assessments

Are **NOT** required. They are very beneficial and could support your organizations needs.

They can be completed by contacting your local police department or a private contactor.

Risk assessments are not an allowable cost. However, most local law enforcement agencies provide this a free service.

Application Technical Review



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1. An internal reviewer will assess the following components of the application:
 - Applicant eligibility
 - Submission of all required documents (**points will be deducted from the final score for each missing required document**)
 - Budget compliance
 - If the applicant requests more than the maximum allowable, **points will be deducted from the final score**
 - Unallowable costs will be identified and those costs will be deducted from the final award if the application is approved for funding
 - Compliance with new word limits applied to each section of the application
 - Text that exceeds the word limit will be redacted prior to the scoring review.
 - Application addresses a priority funding area and bonus points will be assigned

Application Scoring Review



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1. Each eligible application will be assigned to a three-person team that will review and score the application based on compliance with the criteria outlined in the NOFA
2. Each reviewer will score each section of the application, calculate a final score, and make a funding recommendation
3. The three scores will be used to calculate a preliminary score
4. **Bonus and deduction points will be applied to the preliminary score to calculate the final score**
5. Applications will be ranked based on final score and funding amounts will be assigned
6. Those applications recommended for funding will then be submitted for review and approval by the GOCPP Executive Director
7. Once the recommendations have been approved, applicants will be notified and applications will be processed for award



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QUESTIONS?

Any Feedback?

Please use the below link to complete our FY26 NOFA TA Survey so that we can improve our calls in the future.

Link: <https://forms.gle/1VsrUarByPyYYnSq5>

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@MarylandGOCCP
on Facebook and Twitter
#ASaferMD

Grants Management System - Technical Support:

support@goccp.freshdesk.com



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