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

State Fiscal Year 2027

**Maryland's Entertainment District Security Grant
(EDSG)**

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

Applicant Technical Assistance Call
Tuesday, March 17, 2026 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

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 Q&A Feature. Panelists may unmute you to ask or clarify aloud
- The presentation will be posted to its corresponding [grant program page](#) on the GOCPP website



GOCPP- EDSG Team: Introductions

Application Technical Assistance:

Tabitha Wilson - Fund Manager
Email: Tabitha.Wilson@maryland.gov

Zahra Isaacs - Grant Monitor
Email: Zahra.Isaacs@maryland.gov

Janene Dyson - Fiscal Specialist
Email: Janene.Dyson@maryland.gov

Policy Technical Assistance:

Shawn Green – P.R.O.T.E.C.T. Coordinator
Email: Shawn.Green@maryland.gov

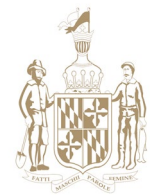
[GOCPP Staff Directory](#)



Technical Assistance Objectives

Understand key concepts related to submission of an application under the SFY2027 EDSG, including:

- Goals and priorities of this program
- Eligibility
- Award information
- Application requirements
- Application review process
- New Organizational Capacity Questionnaire (OCQ)



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Grants Management System (GMS): Access

For new GMS users, please follow the instructions under
Request GMS Access webpage:

- <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/grants/requesting-access/>

For GMS technical support (system support such as GMS
access/login), please contact our GMS Help Desk via the
following email:

- support@gocpp.freshdesk.com

For GMS resources, please use the following link:

- <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/grants/gms-help-videos/>

Maryland's Entertainment District Security Grant (EDSG)



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NOFA Link: <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/SFY2027-EDSG-NOFA.pdf>

Purpose:

- To assist community organizations, nonprofit organizations, and local governments to fund security operations during times of high pedestrian traffic in entertainment districts, where a higher-than-average number of calls for police assistance in response to reported crimes are placed.
- Entertainment district is defined as a concentrated area up to a half-square-mile with a documented high concentration of establishments serving alcohol for on-site consumption, hookah bars, or venues that regularly host live entertainment, as well as demonstrate a pattern of increased calls for police assistance during times of high pedestrian traffic.



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Funding Eligibility

Eligible Entities: Nonprofit Community Organizations, Nonprofit Organizations, and Local Government Agencies

- **Funding Limitations:**

- Local governments can request up to \$50,000
- Community organizations and nonprofits can request up to \$30,000

- **Definitions:**

- Nonprofit Community Organization: a neighborhood association officially recognized by the political subdivision in which it is located.
- Local Government: the governing body or administrative agency responsible for public safety in the jurisdiction where the entertainment district is located.



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Eligible Activities

By funding targeted security and crime prevention initiatives, EDSG seeks to reduce criminal activity, improve crowd management, and enhance overall public safety in high-traffic areas. Funding is provided for:

- **Security and Law Enforcement Overtime:** Covers overtime costs for law enforcement and security personnel to manage crowd flow and address crime hotspots during peak hours.
- **Procurement of Security Equipment:** Supports the purchase of surveillance cameras, enhanced lighting, and communication tools to improve monitoring in high-traffic areas.
- **Hiring Security Administrators:** Funds the hiring or contracting of security officers and administrators to oversee daily safety operations.
- **Public Safety Awareness Initiatives:** Supports programs that promote crime prevention and public safety during periods of high pedestrian activity.

Award Details



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Due Date for Applications: Friday, April 10, 2026 by 11:59 PM

Period of Award: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

- Number of Awards: Up to 10
- Funding Range: \$20,000 to \$50,000
- Maximum Award Amount: \$50,000 for local governments & \$30,000 for community organizations & nonprofits.



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Budget - Allowable Costs

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

Allowable Costs:

- **Personnel**

- Overtime for Law Enforcement Officers (LEO) and security personnel

- **Contractual Services**

- Security Officers and administrators to oversee daily safety operations

Budget - Allowable Costs



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- **Equipment** (Over \$10,000 per unit)
 - Surveillance Cameras - Installation, maintenance, or upgrade of security camera systems to monitor public spaces
 - Safety equipment - Purchase of safety gear for LEO or security personnel (e.g., reflective vests, communication devices)
 - Equipment with a unit cost less than \$10,000 should be reported in the “Other” category
- **Other**
 - Emergency Response Training - Costs associated with training for security personnel on emergency response, conflict de-escalation, or crowd management
 - Lighting Improvements - Installation of additional lighting in public areas to enhance safety during nighttime events
 - Public Safety Signage - Creation and installation of signs that provide safety information, directions, and emergency contact numbers
 - Equipment with a unit cost less than \$10,000

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

Budget - Unallowable Costs



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- Operating Expenses
- Alcoholic beverages
- Bad debt
- Bonuses or commissions
- Corporate formation
- Honorarium
- Lobbying costs (including membership fees to organizations whose primary activity is lobbying)
- Rental Fees
- Printing Costs
- Telephone/Fax
- Food/Beverages
- Fundraising
- Trinkets (items such as hats, mugs, portfolios, t-shirts, coins, and gift bags)
- Construction/Capital Expenses/Land Acquisition

Program Narrative

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



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- 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)



Project Summary Instructions

- A concise summary of the project limited to **100 words or less**.
- Use the following project summary template:

The _____(Implementing Agency's Name) 1 _____(Project Title) 1
_____ program helps to _____ 2 in _____ 3 . The
program _____.4 Program funds will support _____.5

****Reference:** Pages 6-7 of the [GMS Application Instructions](#)



Overall Organization Information

Word Limit: 500

- Brief overview and key organizational information.
- Include in bullet format:
 - Mission statement
 - Key milestones and achievements
 - Total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees.
 - Total current organizational budget.
 - Percentage of organizational budget the application is requesting.
 - Primary jurisdictions your organization serves.

****Reference:** Pages 7-8 of the [GMS Application Instructions](#) and Page 6 of the [EDSG NOFA](#)

Problem Statement/Needs Justification



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Word Limit: 500

- Describe the proposed strategies to reduce criminal activity, improve crowd management, and enhance overall public safety in entertainment districts. The proposed strategies should complement ongoing local efforts.
- Describe your organization's experience implementing the proposed strategies.
- Define the target area using zip codes and specifying street names or notable areas. Focus on concentrated zones, up to a half-square-mile, with a high density of businesses that serve alcohol on-site, have hookah bars, or regularly host live entertainment.
- Summarize the need present in the target area supported by local statistics.
- Identify current barriers to enhancing security in entertainment districts and explain how the project will address those barriers.
- If applicable, summarize your collaboration with the [ENOUGH Initiative](#) and upload a letter of support from at least one project partner (ENOUGH Quarterbacks) in the designated community.
- Include if your organization received EDSG funding in SFY 2026.

****Reference:** Page 8 of the [GMS Application Instructions](#) and Pages 6-7 of the [EDSG NOFA](#)



Program Purpose Area

Word Limit: 150

- Describe how the target area qualifies as an entertainment district according to the statutory definition.
- Describe how the proposed activities will enhance public safety within the designated entertainment district.

****Reference:** Page 9 of the [GMS Application Instructions](#) and Page 7 of the [EDSG NOFA](#)



Project Design

Word Limit: 750

- Identify the specific peak hours/days where security interventions will take place.
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of all personnel involved (law enforcement, security officers, public safety campaign staff, etc.).
- Summarize the outreach plan to the target area or enter “N/A” if the proposed strategies do not require outreach to the target area.
- Describe how the proposed security strategies are tailored to the geographic and demographic characteristics of the targeted entertainment district.
- Describe partnerships with law enforcement, local businesses, and/or neighborhood associations that will support implementation of the proposed activities.

****Reference:** Page 9 of the [GMS Application Instructions](#) and Pages 7-8 of the [EDSG NOFA](#)



Goals and Objectives

Word Limit: 1,500

- Describe the project's overarching goals, the corresponding objectives, and the related activities. **Note:** Goals are broad, overarching, and often qualitative targets/statements that describe changes in the target population's knowledge, behavior, or disposition. Objectives are specific, measurable tasks and activities that help to achieve each goal.
- Identify the resources needed to conduct the activities.
- Identify the measurable outcomes for each objectives. **Note:** An outcome is a measurable change or impact as a result of the project.
- Provide a timeline for completing the activities.

****Reference:** Pages 9-10 of the [GMS Application Instructions](#) and Page 8 of the [EDSG NOFA](#)



Data Collection Plan

Word Limit: 250

- Describe the data collection methods, systems, and tools that will be used to track and measure the project's effectiveness.
- Successful applicants will be required to report on the performance measurements in quarterly progress reports.

****Reference:** Page 10 of the [GMS Application Instructions](#) and Page 8 of the [EDSG NOFA](#)



Required Documents

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

- Certified Assurances (GMS Generated)
- Certification Regarding Lobbying (GMS Generated)
- Current W-9 Form
- Screenshot of SAM.gov/Unique Entity Identifier Registration
- Certificate of Applicable Financial Reporting Requirements and Required Financial Report Uploading
- Determination of Suitability to Interact with Minors Form
- Proof of 501 (c)(3) Status (Required for new nonprofit applicants)
- Organizational Capacity Questionnaire (Qualtrics)
- Most Recent Organizational Chart

NEW Requirement: Organizational Capacity Questionnaire (OCQ)



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What is the OCQ?

- A monitoring tool used by GOCPP to assess:
 - Organizational stability
 - Financial management practices
 - Program operations

Why it Matters:

- Determines applicant **Risk Status**
- Informs GOCPP's monitoring approach throughout the grant lifecycle

SFY 2027 Requirement:

- Submission through **Qualtrics is REQUIRED**
- Must be submitted **by the NOFA due date in GMS**
- Applications are **incomplete without a submitted OCQ**

NEW Requirement: Organizational Capacity Questionnaire (OCQ)

Important Reminders:

- A new OCQ must be submitted annually
- Must include reliable information from the **CEO or CFO**
- GMS attestation must include:
 - Name
 - Title
 - Date of certifying official

OCQ Link:

https://gocpp.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2mY8YNPFAAzOqmq

Technical Assistance:

dlmsac.gocpyvs@maryland.gov or NOFA points of contact



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Application Technical Review

- 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 deducted from the final award if the application is approved for funding
 - Compliance with 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



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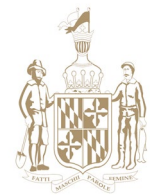
Application Scoring Review

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 scores 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

Any Feedback?

Please use the below link to complete our FY27 NOFA TA Survey so that we can improve our calls in the future.

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



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ANY QUESTIONS?

Connect with Us!



<https://gocpp.maryland.gov/>



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#ASaferMD

Grants Management System - Technical Support:

support@goccp.freshdesk.com