



The Jewish Federations®
Washington Office
OF NORTH AMERICA

THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

January 28, 2019

Dear State Government Affairs Professionals, JCRC Directors and Other Interested Parties:

With a temporary agreement reached to reopen shuttered parts of the government through February 15th, the House and Senate returned to work today to complete the unfinished Appropriations for FY 2019, including for programs of the Department of Homeland Security.

The Department of Homeland Security spending bill funds two of our key priorities: FEMA's Nonprofit Security Grant Program and Emergency Food and Shelter Program. Both these programs are at risk of significant funding cuts this year.

The Senate's draft Homeland Security spending bill includes only \$35 million for FEMA's Nonprofit Security Grant Program (a \$25 million cut below the \$60 million approved by Congress in FY 2018). Similarly, the Senate draft includes only \$100 million for FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program (a \$20 million cut below the \$120 million approved by Congress in FY 2018). By contrast, the House Appropriations Committee approved a draft Homeland Security spending bill that includes flat funding of both programs at \$60 million and \$120 million, respectively. We support the House provisions and oppose the Senate provisions.

At this critical time in the appropriations process, it is important that your Congressional delegation and Senators hear from you in opposition to the proposed Senate cuts to NSGP and EFSP. Please take immediate action. Below is a sample letter for your use.

Thank you for your partnership and please let me know if you have any questions and if you receive any feedback from Member offices.

Best,

Rob Goldberg
Senior Director, Legislative Affairs
Rob.goldberg@jewishfederations.org

Sample Letter

"January __, 2019

Dear _____:

We write today in strong support for **FEMA's Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) and Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)**, and urge Congress to maintain current funding levels for these programs within the final Homeland Security Appropriations bill for FY 2019.

With respect to the NSGP program, Violent Homegrown Extremists and international terrorist organizations are targeting the nonprofit sector, and Jewish communal institutions in particular, in growing frequency and in ways proven difficult for law enforcement agencies to track, disrupt, and prevent. **Please find attached our threat report**, which captures the mounting number of threats that have been reported on since the 116th Congress began. Often VHE's are incited or motivated to attack at the behest of international terrorist groups through social media platforms that know no boundaries. The magnitude of these risks necessitated the establishment and justify the continuation of a strong NSGP program as a critical public-private partnership that enables at-risk nonprofits to better respond to threats through the hardening of their facilities and the improvement in their planning and preparedness to deter, detect, mitigate and recover from potential attacks.

With respect to EFSP, Congress created the program in response to the 1982 Recession, which brought to light that public and charitable institutions at the state and local levels could not tackle the Nation's housing and food insecurity crises without Federal assistance. The program assists community-based public and nonprofit social services providers that support shelter, food, utilities, and related basic needs to individuals and families facing emergency economic crises. Years later, FEMA and Congress relied on the EFSP program as an important stopgap against the emergency economic situation brought about by the 2007-2009 Great Recession. More recently, DHS/FEMA published the attached report on the critical alignment of the EFSP program with the Nation's Federal plan to prevent and end homelessness.

Unfortunately, the spending difference within the competing House and Senate draft Homeland Security Spending bills for FY 2019 place both programs in jeopardy of significant funding cuts. The Senate's draft bill includes only \$35 million for NSGP, constituting a \$25 million (41%) cut below the \$60 million approved by Congress in FY 2018. Similarly, the Senate's bill includes only \$100 million for FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program, constituting a \$20 million (17%) cut below the \$120 million approved by Congress in FY 2018. Please note that this cut, if allowed, would be in addition to the 40 percent cut in EFSP funding Congress already approved after the Budget Control Act of 2011 was implemented. By contrast, the House draft Homeland Security Spending bill includes our request for flat funding of both programs of \$60 million and \$120 million, respectively.

At this critical time in the appropriations process, we respectfully urge you to support maintaining FEMA's Nonprofit Security Grant Program and Emergency Food and Shelter Program at the levels Congress approved in fiscal year 2018, and to oppose any efforts to cut vital funding for these programs within the final Homeland Security Appropriations bill for FY 2019. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,"