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NJOHSP**OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND PREPAREDNESS**

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Christie Administration Announces Over \$4.26 Million in Federal Homeland Security Grant Funding
New Jersey received the second-highest allotment in the nation; 214% increase this year

TRENTON – The Christie Administration announced today that New Jersey’s Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP) has been awarded over \$4.2 million for nonprofit organizations under the Jersey City/Newark Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), a 214-percent increase from 2015, and the second-highest total in the nation. Fifty-eight nonprofit organizations, including religious institutions, operating in New Jersey’s UASI and Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) will share the federal grants to improve physical security. This year, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) allotted \$20 million nationwide to support target hardening and other physical security enhancements for nonprofit organizations in the country’s highest risk urban areas.

“In today’s current threat environment, it is critical that nonprofit organizations and religious institutions located in high-risk areas bolster their security efforts,” said Chris Rodriguez, Director of the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. “My office has worked tirelessly to secure more funding so our communities, houses of worship, and nonprofit organizations are more resilient in the face of modern-day threats.”

In addition to working to secure this funding, NJOHSP continues to expand outreach efforts to support target hardening for faith-based institutions, working collaboratively with local and county partners to enhance security measures at the roughly 16,000 houses of worship in the State. Security needs and concerns are addressed through NJOHSP’s Interfaith Advisory Council, a network of government and over 40 faith-based leaders who facilitate information sharing, dialogue, and close cooperation on a host of key issues.

The grants, which can be up to \$75,000 for each organization, must be used for the purchase and installation of physical security equipment or for security-related training for organization personnel. Nonprofit organizations within the seven principal UASI counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, and Union, as well as those operating in Sussex, Hunterdon, Somerset, Ocean, and Monmouth counties—and in Pennsylvania’s Pike County (MSA)—were eligible to apply to NJOHSP for this competitive grant program. 133 nonprofit organizations submitted funding applications to a NJOHSP peer review committee, which scored the applications against the DHS criteria.

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New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness
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The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP), a Cabinet-level agency, was created in 2006. The Director serves as the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor, and is responsible for leading and coordinating the state's counterterrorism, cybersecurity, and emergency preparedness efforts while building resiliency throughout the state across all levels of government and the private sector. NJOHSP oversees and distributes discretionary state and federal homeland security and emergency preparedness funds on behalf of New Jersey. More information about NJOHSP can be found at www.njhomelandsecurity.gov.

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