



FACT SHEET: SYNAGOGUE SECURITY GUARD GRANT PROGRAM  
FALL 2024

**1. What is the Synagogue Security Guard Grant program?**

This is a program offered by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation to help synagogues pay for professional, vetted armed security guards for the High Holy Days, Shabbat, religious school, and special events. (See question 6 below to see which guards are eligible.)

**2. Is this program a response to a specific threat?**

No, it's part of our ongoing efforts to secure our Jewish community since 2019, especially as the threat of antisemitism continues to rise.

**3. Which organizations are eligible to participate in this program?**

This program was designed specifically for synagogues, and only synagogues are eligible to participate. For this grant, we define a synagogue as a building where the primary purpose is religious worship by a congregation.

**4. Where is the money coming from?**

The Federation is raising money to help create a more secure Jewish community rather than leaving synagogues to raise all the necessary funds on their own. Funds are coming from individual donors, private foundations, Jewish Federations of North America, and the Jewish Community Foundation of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. We are also preparing to launch a multi-million-dollar security campaign to support our entire state, and we look forward to sharing details with you soon.

**5. How will the program work?**

The grant can be used to reimburse synagogues for professional armed security guards (see question 6) during the High Holidays, Shabbat, religious school, and/or special events. The funds may not be used for any other security purposes. Synagogues will pay for the services and submit receipts to the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. We will reimburse each synagogue up to the appropriate amounts. The program covers expenses incurred between July 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025.

## **6. Are there requirements my synagogue should know about?**

As a condition of receiving funding, synagogues will be required to participate in a security assessment and security training. The purpose is to enhance both your physical security and your ability to respond

in case of an intruder. In addition, synagogues will be required to complete two surveys to help us explain to our donors the impact of their financial support.

## **7. Are all professional security guards covered by this program?**

Here are the guidelines that must be followed when selecting security companies and guards that will be reimbursed by this grant. If you need referrals, please speak to our Director of Security and Community Properties.

- Security companies must be able to provide a certificate of insurance with minimum liability limits of:
  - Umbrella: \$5,000,000
  - General liability: \$1,000,000 occurrence/\$2,000,000 aggregate
- Guards are off-duty or retired law enforcement officers or military personnel with HR218 status.
- Guards have a W2 tax status.
- Retired law enforcement officers are retired in good standing.

## **8. How do synagogues apply for the program?**

To apply, synagogues must submit three documents:

- 1) Completed and signed Grant Application
- 2) Completed and signed Memorandum of Engagement
- 3) Certificate of liability insurance coverage naming the Federation as an additional insured. Documents should be submitted by October 31, 2024, to Alex Cohen Poylov, Community Security and Properties Program Manager, at [AlexP@MilwaukeeJewish.org](mailto:AlexP@MilwaukeeJewish.org).

## **9. How do we add the Federation to our liability insurance?**

Contact your insurance agent to request this addition. Your agent can then provide you with a certificate of liability coverage naming the Federation as an additional insured.

## **10. Is this a confidential program?**

No. We encourage synagogue leadership to be transparent with their congregants, informing them that funding is coming from the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. However, to maintain the integrity of our security initiatives, we ask that you avoid discussing this program with the

media. Please refer any media inquiries to Ari Friedman at AriF@MilwaukeeJewish.org or 414-390-5740.

**11. What is the timing for this program?**

Synagogues must submit their application by October 31, 2024. These synagogues will be eligible for reimbursement for guard services during Shabbat, special events and/or religious school. Synagogues will receive approval of their application within ten days of submission.

Receipts must be submitted for reimbursement within 30 days. Reimbursements will take 30-45 days. All requests for reimbursement must be submitted by May 31, 2025.

**12. How do I submit receipt for reimbursement?**

Email receipts and proof of payment to AP@MilwaukeeJewish.org or mail to Accounts Payable, Milwaukee Jewish Federation, 1360 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53202. With subject title "Synagogue Security Guard Grant Program – (NAME OF SYNAGOGUE)"