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Jewish Institutions Awarded \$9.7 Million in Vital Nonprofit Security Grants

Homeland Security Grants will increase security of nonprofits vulnerable to terrorism

WASHINGTON – Federal funds awarded Friday will help bolster the security of nonprofit institutions deemed by the Department of Homeland Security to be vulnerable to terrorist attacks, including many Jewish organizations and institutions. The Jewish Federations of North America has historically led the effort to fund these programs and today the organization hailed the allocation of \$10 million to numerous nonprofits through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NPSG) – with more than 97 percent awarded to Jewish institutions and facilities. The Jewish Federations of North America continue to express their gratitude toward U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and Congressional leaders for their ongoing support of this vital program, as well as support for the program from key partners including the Orthodox Union (OU).

“The Department of Homeland Security has demonstrated a great commitment to protecting at-risk communities,” said Kathy Manning, chair of the Board of Trustees of The Jewish Federations of North America. “These effective security grants are vital to the ongoing protection of deserving institutions, enabling us to work, worship, gather and learn without fear.”

Since its creation by Congress in 2005, the Nonprofit Security Grant Program has successfully carried out its mission to support nonprofit organizations that are at increased risk of terrorist threats and integrate nonprofit preparedness activities with broader state and local preparedness efforts. Secretary Napolitano recently addressed the merits of the program and has emphasized that many in Congress see the tremendous value in the program and are in support of its preservation.

Just last week, one of the key figures in the 2008 Mumbai massacre was deported from Saudi Arabia to stand trial in India. The attackers purposely targeted American Jews and a Jewish center. The arrest comes within weeks of the conviction of a number of Americans for running websites inciting anti-Jewish violence, and within three months of the deadly attack on the Jewish elementary school in Toulouse, France.

A decade ago, a different threat loomed. The FBI issued a nationwide warning that terrorists could use fuel tanker trucks to attack synagogues or Jewish schools, as had happened in Morocco. At the FBI's urging that vulnerable organizations should be vigilant around this credible threat, The Jewish Federations of North America, with key communal partners, facilitated the establishment of the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, and spearheaded its own security initiative, the Secure Community Network.

The funding announced Friday is the seventh installment of the program. Since the program began, a total of \$128 million has been distributed across the country to help nonprofits acquire and install physical security enhancements intended to deter and detect terrorists and extremists.

"Since September 11, nonprofits generally, and Jewish communal institutions specifically, have been the victim of an alarming number of threats and attacks," said William C. Daroff, Vice President for Public Policy and Director of the Washington Office of The Jewish Federations of North America. "We are grateful that the Nonprofit Security Grant Program has emerged to supplement the work of local and federal law enforcement to help keep us safe. As the threat continues and morphs into new and emerging security challenges The Jewish Federations call on Congress and the Administration to continue to support the Nonprofit Security Grant Program in the coming fiscal year 2013 and until nonprofit institutions are secure from such threats."

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The Jewish Federations, collectively among the top 10 charities on the continent, protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of tikkun olam (repairing the world), tzedakah (charity and social justice) and Torah (Jewish learning).