



2025-2026 Synagogue Security Guard Grant Fact Sheet

1. What is the Synagogue Security Guard Grant program?

This is a program offered by the Wisconsin Jewish Security Network (WJSN), a program supported by 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.

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.

For the 2025–2026 grant cycle, WJSN will award each synagogue \$5,000 in funding.

The funds will be distributed in two installments:

- \$2,500 in early September 2025

- \$2,500 in January 2026, following the submission of a mid-year report (see Question 6 for reporting guidelines). Be aware that you will not receive the second installment unless you submit your mid-year report.

Please note: This process is different from last year — you will **not** need to submit receipts or request reimbursement.

The grant covers eligible security expenses incurred between July 1, 2025, and April 30, 2026.

6. Are there requirements my synagogue should know about?

As a condition of receiving funding, synagogues will be required to:

- 1) Participate in a security assessment
- 2) Participate in scheduled security training
- 3) Be committed to developing emergency operations plans under the guidance of WSJN
- 4) Provide reporting on the security services they use. The purpose is to enhance both your physical security and your ability to respond in case of an intruder.

Reporting Requirements

Grantees are required to submit two brief reports during the grant period:

- Mid-Year Report – due December 31, 2025
- Final Report – due May 31, 2026

Templates for both reports will be provided in the grant award email and will also be available on our website at JewishSecurityWI.org under the Synagogue Security Guard Grant tab, along with other required grant documents.

Important: Your second payment installment in January is contingent upon submission of the mid-year report by the December 31 deadline.

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.

A major development this year is the creation of the Wisconsin Jewish Security Network, a partner of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, which deploys highly trained, thoroughly vetted security officers known for their trustworthiness and experience.

If you need additional referrals, please speak to the Executive Director of Wisconsin Jewish Security Network, Ari Friedman.

- Security companies must be able to provide a certificate of insurance with minimum liability limits of:
 - o Umbrella: \$5,000,000
 - o 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 to the program?

To apply, synagogues must submit four documents:

- 1) Completed and signed Grant Application
- 2) Completed and signed Memorandum of Engagement
- 3) An updated W-9
- 4) Certificate of liability insurance coverage, naming WJSN and the Milwaukee Jewish Federation as additional insureds. Documents should be submitted by July 31st, 2025, to Wendy Zeller, at WndyZ@MilwaukeeJewish.org.

9. How do we add WSJN and 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 WJSN and MJF as additional insureds.

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 Wisconsin Jewish Security Network. 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 Executive Director, Ari Friedman at AriF@JewishSecurityWI.org or 414-390-5740.

11. What is the timing for this program?

Synagogues must submit their application by July 31st, 2025. These synagogues will be eligible for the \$5,000 award for guard services during Shabbat, special events and/or religious school. Synagogues will receive approval of their application within ten days of submission.