



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller
Director

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To: Criminal Justice Services Board Grants Committee

From: DCJS Division of Public Safety Training - Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

Date: April 24, 2025

Re: FY2025 Hate Crimes Grant Program (HCGP) Funding – Round 2

Name of Person Presenting: Mr. Tracy Matthews, Law Enforcement Grants and Programs Manager, Public Safety Training and Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

The goal of the Hate Crimes Grant Program (HCGP) is to minimize bias-motivated incidents by providing funding that supports institutions and/or nonprofit organizations within a locality that may be at risk for targeted, bias-motivated violence based on race, religious conviction, color, gender, disability, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, or national origin.

Per the *Code of Virginia* § 52-8.5, "Hate crime" means (i) a criminal act committed against a person or his property with the specific intent of instilling fear or intimidation in the individual against whom the act is perpetrated because of race, religion, gender, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or ethnic or national origin or that is committed for the purpose of restraining that person from exercising his rights under the Constitution or laws of the Commonwealth or of the United States; (ii) any illegal act directed against any persons or their property because of those persons' race, religion, gender, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or ethnic or national origin; and (iii) all other incidents, as determined by law-enforcement authorities, intended to intimidate or harass any individual or group because of race, religion, gender, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or ethnic or national origin.

Grant Application Review	
# Grants Submitted	10
# Grants Denied	6
# Grants Recommended	4

DCJS Recommendations	
Amount Requested	\$803,125
Amount Denied	\$486,725
Amount Decreased	\$102,692
Total Amount Recommended	\$213,708

Recommended funding supporting four (4) localities and their non-profit partners with increased security through personnel, training, and equipment.

Six (6) applications were denied. One (1) application was determined ineligible as the applicant is a non-profit organization and had not partnered with a local government. Five (5) applications were not recommended for funding because did not meet the criteria of the Hate Crimes Grant Program funding opportunity. The applications did not focus specifically on hate crime prevention but on general crime prevention.

In summary, **DCJS staff request approval to fund four (4) applications for the 12-month period (6/1/2025-5/31/2026), totaling \$213,708,** using the FY2025 Hate Crimes Grant Program funding allocated for this purpose.

24-Apr-2025

Application Number	Applicant	Organization Type	Requested DCIS Funds	Requested Local	Requested Total	Recommended DCIS Funds	Recommended Local	Recommended Total
549724	Altavista, Town	Town Government	\$28,980.00	\$0.00	\$28,980.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
549372	AQSA Center	Non-Profit Organization	\$93,000.00	\$0.00	\$93,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
549671	Chase City, Town	Town Government	\$102,400.00	\$0.00	\$102,400.00	\$42,400.00	\$0.00	\$42,400.00
550395	Dickenson, County	County Government	\$98,875.00	\$0.00	\$98,875.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
549989	Harrisonburg, City	City Government	\$32,000.00	\$0.00	\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$0.00	\$32,000.00
550032	Henrico, County	County Government	\$33,000.00	\$0.00	\$33,000.00	\$33,000.00	\$0.00	\$33,000.00
549978	Lexington, City	City Government	\$90,206.00	\$0.00	\$90,206.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
549681	Norfolk City	City Government	\$149,664.00	\$0.00	\$149,664.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
549731	Williamsburg City	City Government	\$26,000.00	\$0.00	\$26,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
549764	Wise County	County Government	\$149,000.00	\$0.00	\$149,000.00	\$106,308.00	\$0.00	\$106,308.00
Grant Program Total:			\$803,125.00	\$0.00	\$803,125.00	\$213,708.00	\$0.00	\$213,708.00

HCGP -- Grants Committee Recommendations (Summary Report)

Hate Crimes Grant Program

24-Apr-2025

Application Number	Grant Program	Applicant	Organization Type	Type of Application	Requested Funding	Recommended Funding	Application Criteria	Grant Project Description
549724	Hate Crimes Grant Program	Altavista, Town	Town Government	New	\$28,980.00	\$0.00	Does not meet criteria	The Town of Altavista has enjoyed a longstanding partnership with the local YMCA, with the town providing annual funding to support the YMCA's recreational league sports programs. These programs, held at the town's English Park, include a splash pad that has become a central gathering place for people of all ages, backgrounds, and socio-economic statuses. The YMCA also regularly brings children from its Daycare Program to the splash pad, further cementing its role as a community hub. In light of the growing popularity of English Park, with annual visitors increasing from 6,000 in 2020 to 23,000 in 2024, the Altavista Police Department (APD) seeks to collaborate with the YMCA and other local non-profits to ensure the safety and security of ...
549372	Hate Crimes Grant Program	AQSA Center	Non-Profit Organization	New	\$93,000.00	\$0.00	Ineligible	This is a place of worship in Sterling, VA with 150+ worshippers attending prayers.
549671	Hate Crimes Grant Program	Chase City, Town	Town Government	New	\$102,400.00	\$42,400.00	Meets criteria with conditions	This grant will provide the resources needed to protect our places of worship, educate the community, and strengthen law enforcement's ability to prevent and respond to such threats. It will provide needed manpower, tools, and equipment for incidents of hate crimes against our religious institutions.
550395	Hate Crimes Grant Program	Dickenson, County	County Government	New	\$98,875.00	\$0.00	Does not meet criteria	The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office seeks funding through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Combating Hate Crimes Grant Program to enhance security for local religious institutions. Our proposal focuses on target hardening, increased security measures, and training church members in active shooter response. Given the rural nature of Dickenson County and its limited minority population, religious institutions are the most likely targets of hate crimes and bias-motivated violence.
549989	Hate Crimes Grant Program	Harrisonburg, City	City Government	New	\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00	Meets criteria with conditions	The Harrisonburg Police Department will partner with the Muslim and Jewish communities in the city to provide enhanced security measures at religious institutions.
550032	Hate Crimes Grant Program	Henrico, County	County Government	New	\$33,000.00	\$33,000.00	Meets criteria	The Henrico County Police Division (HCPD) would like to provide video integration devices that will connect with existing video camera equipment at various religious organizations who are members of the Faith Community Coalition. The Coalition is comprised of about 300 faith-based groups from various backgrounds and cultures partnering with the HPCD to create safe places to work, live, play and worship. This will afford the HCPD to view live video feed in their Real Time Crime Center during times of crisis and to react with appropriate back-up; thus, allowing dispatchers to maintain communication with the officers responding to calls, resulting in a more informed response by police officers and providing instant observation of suspects.
549978	Hate Crimes Grant Program	Lexington, City	City Government	New	\$90,206.00	\$0.00	Does not meet criteria	In response to rising hate and terrorist-related crimes and vandalism, the Lexington Police Department seeks grant funding to enhance public safety through advanced technology. This initiative includes acquiring a drone for a regional response team serving Buena Vista, Lexington, and Rockbridge County, improving emergency operations during wildfires, campus bomb threats, and searches for endangered missing persons. Additionally, high-crime areas will be equipped with cameras to deter hate crimes, terrorist-related threats, and other criminal activity. These technologies will act as both a preventative measure and an investigative tool, strengthening law enforcement efforts and ensuring a safer community for all.

549581	Hate Crimes Grant Program	Norfolk, City	City Government	New	\$149,664.00	\$0.00	Does not meet criteria	This application aims to provide cameras to several synagogues in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. The cameras would allow for the early detection of individuals who would try to harm the Jewish community in the Tidewater area. The technology fits a 5D (Deter, Detect, Deny, Delay, and Defend) strategy. Visible surveillance cameras deter and detect any person with nefarious intent towards the facility or people associated with the temple. As most of the synagogues are co-located in neighborhoods with other houses of worship, the cameras would also benefit other faith communities, thereby raising the level of security for all.
549731	Hate Crimes Grant Program	Williamsburg, City	City Government	New	\$26,000.00	\$0.00	Does not meet criteria	Incidents of hate crime are increasing in the USA. To mitigate threats to our local targeted and vulnerable populations, the WPD will enhance our capacity to detect hate crime threats and actions, providing additional emphasis on preventing incidents, as well as aggressively investigating and prosecuting those responsible. Paramount to the prevention of hate crime is blocking access by target hardening areas that are utilized by groups that are victims of hate crimes. Additionally, the WPD will utilize critical technology and infrastructure to detect possible hate crime activity through the installation of dedicated cameras to feed into the WPD real-time crime center, allowing visual observation of the area 24/7 without delay.
549764	Hate Crimes Grant Program	Wise, County	County Government	New	\$149,000.00	\$106,308.00	Meets criteria with conditions	Agreements will be signed with local churches, and Family Crisis Homeless Shelter, in a partnership with Wise County Sheriff's Office. In this partnership group, if requested, a security survey of the organization will be conducted. The deputy will provide CPTED recommendations to help lower the risk of targeting for both Hate Crimes and Property Crimes. Funding will also be used to target harden our courthouse with security door access equipment, to monitor access and secure the building quickly in case of violence.