



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Joint Fiscal Committee members  
From: Sorsha Anderson, Senior Staff Associate  
Date: April 17, 2026  
Subject: Grant Request - JFO #3277

Enclosed please find one (1) item, which the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the Sergeant at Arms office:

**JFO #3277:** \$36,000.00 to the Vermont Legislature, Sergeant at Arms office from the National Conference of State Legislatures. The grant will extend up to \$500.00 to each member of the General Assembly to secure their homes. Funds would be available once as a reimbursement during the lawmaker's service for expenses incurred after June 1, 2026. *[Received April 14, 2026]*

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Sorsha Anderson: sanderson@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like this item held for legislative review. Please submit concerns by **May 10, 2026**, or we will assume that you agree to consider as final the acceptance of this request.



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
SERGEANT AT ARMS

To: Joint Fiscal Committee  
From: Agatha Kessler, Sergeant at Arms  
Date: April 13, 2026  
Re: NCSL Legislator Security Fund Grant

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The Vermont General Assembly has been approved for a \$36,000 grant from NCSL for the purpose of securing lawmakers' homes. This memo outlines how the funds would be used and includes the grant documents.

**Security Allowance Program:**

The security allowance program would make available \$500 for members of the General Assembly to secure their homes. Limitations of the program include:

- a) Funds are available once during the course of a legislator's service.
- b) Funds must be used for security measures at a lawmaker's home.
- c) Expenses must be incurred after June 1, 2026.
- d) Expenditures will be reimbursed based on actual expenses.
- e) Allowable expenses include:

Allowable item	
Locks	Deadbolts, electronic locks, window security or similar type lock for home security.
Cameras	Doorbell camera, consumer grade camera system or similar camera system or subscription services for home security.
Lighting	Motion activated lights, lights for primary approaches to home, lights for areas of concern, or similar type of security lighting.
Professional home security services	Window and door sensors, sound sensors, fire alarm integration, audible alarm, monitoring services or other professional home security services.
Personal data security services	Subscription for data protection services, PO Box rental or other personal data security services.

Installation services (carpenter, electrician, etc.) are reimbursable and contractors must be licensed professionally.

**Funding Sources:**

This program would be funded by two separate sources:

- 1) NCSL Grant \$36,000: NCSL has approved a grant for securing Vermont lawmakers’ homes. Allocated funds are available to all 180 legislators. If fewer than 180 legislators are interested in the security allowance program, the Sergeant at Arms Office will arrange for equitable availability of any remaining NCSL funds among interested legislators.
  
- 2) Legislative Budget: the FY27 legislative budget proposes \$500/legislator for a total of \$90,000.

NCSL grant funds would offset the amount of funding needed in the FY27 Legislative budget. NCSL funds would be used first.

If the grant is rejected, funding for the program would rely solely on the legislative budget.

At this time, the NCSL grant is a one-time funding source. NCSL has indicated that this grant may continue in the future, depending on continued interest from both the donor and the participants. If the grant is offered in future years, legislators would need to re-register with the Sergeant at Arms Office to receive additional funds.

**Timeline and Reimbursement:**

Lawmakers would be able to make purchases and secure their homes over the course of the summer months:

Deadline	Action item for Vermont Legislators
May 15, 2026	Deadline for Members to register for the Security Allowance Program. The number of interested legislators will determine the spending limit for each interested legislator.
June 1, 2026	Members notified of spending limit & invited to submit proposal. Proposals should be authorized within 1 week.
September 1, 2026	Deadline to execute authorized plan: 1) Submit receipts to Sergeant at Arms Office 2) Submit expense report in VISION. Reimbursement through the VISION system usually takes 30 days.

By October 31, 2026, the Sergeant at Arms Office must submit to NCSL the following:

- 1) **Expense Report:** A summary report including reimbursements to individuals by expense category with the number of legislators reimbursed and the total amount.
- 2) **Demographic Report:** a summary report including number of legislators, Chamber, party and gender. No names will be included in the summary report.

NCSL will reimburse the General Assembly within 30 days of receipt of the expense report.

**Administration:**

The Security Allowance Program would be administered by the Sergeant at Arms Office with support from the Joint Fiscal Office.

The Sergeant at Arms office is the point of contact for the NCSL grant and would review and authorize legislators' proposal for security expenses.

The Joint Fiscal Office will process expense reports according to the normal process through VISION. The Joint Fiscal Office will also assist with grant fund processing.

Neither the Sergeant at Arms Office nor the Joint Fiscal Office are requesting additional funding for administration of this program.

# VERMONT GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUEST FOR GRANT ACCEPTANCE

BASIC GRANT INFORMATION				
<b>1. Department:</b>	Sergeant at Arms			
<b>2. Program:</b>	Legislator Home and Personal Safety			
<b>3. Legal Title of Grant:</b>	NCSL Legislator Security Fund Grant			
<b>4. Federal Catalog #:</b>				
<b>5. Grant/Donor Name and Address:</b>	National Conference of State Legislators 7700 East First Place Denver, CO 80230			
<b>6. Grant Period:</b>	<b>From:</b>	02/28/2026	<b>To:</b>	10/31/2026
<b>7. Purpose of Grant:</b>	The security allowance program would make available \$500 for members of the General Assembly to secure their homes.			
<b>8. Impact on existing program if grant is not accepted:</b>	If the grant is not accepted, funding for the program would rely solely on the Legislative budget.			
9. BUDGET INFORMATION				
<b>Expenditures:</b>	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	<b>Comments</b>
Personal Services				
Operating Expenses				
Grants	\$36,000.00			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Revenues:</b>				
State Funds:				
Cash				
In-Kind				
Federal Funds:				
(Direct Costs)				
(Statewide Indirect)				
(Departmental Indirect)				
Other Funds:				
Grant (list source)	\$36,000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Appropriation #:</b>	<b>\$ Amount:</b>			
<b>Total</b>				\$0.00

# VERMONT GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUEST FOR GRANT ACCEPTANCE

PERSONAL SERVICE INFORMATION		
<b>10. Will monies from this grant be used to fund one or more personal service contracts?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If "Yes", appointing authority must initial here to indicate intent to follow current competitive bidding process/policy.  Appointing Authority Name: _____ Agreed by: _____ (initial)		
<b>11. Limited Service Position Information:</b>	<b># of Positions</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>Total Positions:</b>		
<b>12. Equipment and space for these positions:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Is presently available. <input type="checkbox"/> Can be obtained with available funds.
13. AUTHORIZATION DEPARTMENT		
I/we certify that no funds beyond basic application preparation and filing costs have been expended or committed in anticipation of approval of this grant, unless previous notification was made:	Signature: <b>Agatha Kessler</b> Digitally signed by Agatha Kessler <small>Date: 2026.04.14 12:45:36 -04'00'</small>	Date: 04/14/2026
	Title: <b>Sergeant at Arms</b>	
	Signature: _____	Date: _____
	Title: _____	
14. CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER		
<b>Check One Box:</b> Approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Approved <input type="checkbox"/>	(Chief Fiscal Officer signature) 	Date: 4/16/26
15. LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP		
<b>Check One Box:</b> Accepted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/>	(President Pro Tempore signature) 	Date: 4/14/26
<b>Check One Box:</b> Accepted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/>	(Speaker of the House signature) 	Date: 4/14/26
16. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED		
<b>Required Grant Documentation</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Request Memo <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. project approval (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Award <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Agreement Grant Budget	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Donation (if any) <input type="checkbox"/> Grant (Project) Timeline (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Extension (if applicable)	
End Form		
NOTE: The term "grant" refers to any grant, gift, loan, or any sum of money or thing of value to be accepted by any agency, department, commission, board, or other part of State government (32 V.S.A. § 5).		



## NCSL Legislator Security Fund Application

### STATE LEGISLATURE/CHAMBER:

VERMONT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### POINT OF CONTACT

Name: AGATHA KESSLER

Email address: AKESSLER@LEG.STATE.VT.US

Phone number: (802) 828-2228

### NARRATIVE

How does the legislature or chamber intend to use the allocated funds from NCSL? Please explain plans for training programs (if offering) and personal expense reimbursement. Please explain how you will ensure that all legislators have equal access to the available funding. Use the space below to describe your plans or attach a separate document with further details.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	Amount
Training programs.	PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.	\$
Legislator expense reimbursement.		\$
If needed: Administrative costs (not to exceed 10% of total funding).		\$
Other.		\$
<b>Total:</b>		\$

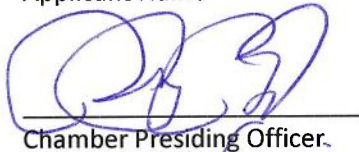
## ETHICS CERTIFICATION:

By submitting this application, I/we are affirming that our legislature is able to accept and spend funding from the NCSL Legislator Security Fund in accordance with relevant ethics standards and laws.

## SIGNATURES

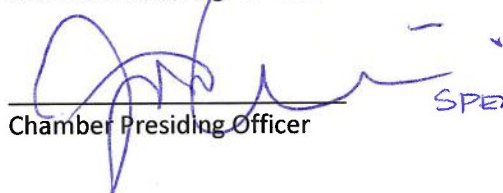
VERMONT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Applicant Name



SENATOR PHIL BARUTH

Chamber Presiding Officer.



SPEAKER JILL KROWINSKI

Chamber Presiding Officer



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
SERGEANT AT ARMS

**MEMORANDUM**

To: NCSL Grant Committee  
From: Agatha Kessler, Sergeant at Arms  
Date: February 27, 2026  
Subject: NCSL Legislator Security Fund Application

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the NCSL Legislator Security Fund. Like so many lawmakers across the country, Vermont legislators receive threats at their homes and in their communities. Threats to Vermont lawmakers double each year and the NCLS funds would be used promptly to support home and personal safety for members. We appreciate NCSL's attention to this issue and your support in protecting state lawmakers.

This memo outlines Vermont's intended use of allocated funds from the NCSL Legislator Security Fund Application.

*How does the legislature or chamber intend to use the allocated funds from NCSL? Please explain plans for training programs (if offering) and personal expense reimbursement. Please explain how you will ensure that all legislators have equal access to the available funding. Use the space below to describe your plans or attach a separate document with further details.*

The NCSL funds would be administered through the Sergeant at Arms Office for both the House and Senate. The Sergeant at Arms Office is non-partisan and serves both Chambers and all parties equally. The Sergeant at Arms Office provides numerous non-partisan services to the General Assembly, including security and law enforcement services pursuant to [2 V.S.A. § 62](#).

NCSL grant funds would be used to secure the lawmakers' homes. Vermont lawmakers do not typically have satellite offices and work from home when they are not in the Capitol.

The following items would be considered allowable expenses:

Locks	Deadbolts, electronic locks, window security or similar type lock for home security.
Cameras	Doorbell camera, consumer grade camera system or similar camera system or subscription services for home security.
Lighting	Motion activated lights, lights for primary approaches to home, lights for areas of concern, or similar type of security lighting.
Professional home security services	Window and door sensors, sound sensors, fire alarm integration, audible alarm, monitoring services or other professional home security services.
Personal data security services	Subscription for data protection services (ie-DeleteMe), PO Box rental or other personal data security services.

Installation services (carpenter, electrician, etc.) would be reimbursable and contractors would need to be licensed professionally.

Members would develop their home and personal safety plan and submit to the Sergeant at Arms for review. After review, the legislator would be authorized to purchase the item(s) and service(s) and submit an expense report for reimbursement.

*PROPOSED BUDGET*

Item	Description	Amount
Legislator Expense Reimbursement	Locks, cameras, lighting, professional home security services and personal data security services	\$200/member.
30 Senate Members		\$6,000
150 House Members		\$30,000
TOTAL:		\$36,000

Allocated funds would be available to all 180 legislators. If less than 180 legislators are interested in the security allowance, the Sergeant at Arms Office would arrange for equitable availability of funds among interested legislators.

As Sergeant at Arms, I certify that any applicable ethics laws and provisions will be satisfied, the program will be available on a nonpartisan basis to all legislators in both the House and Senate, legislators will be informed that funding for the program is provided through the NCSL Legislator Security Fund, and that purchased items and services will meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the Notice of Funding Availability letter. Vermont's Speaker of the House Representative Krowinski and President Pro Tempore of the Senate Senator Baruth approve and support this initiative.

Thank you again for considering the personal safety of our country's state lawmakers and interest in protecting legislators when they are away from the state capitol building.