

Volume 3, Issue 8

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[FB-ISAO Current Threat Level](#)

FB-ISAO Physical Threat Level:

ELEVATED

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Physical Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as “SEVERE.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Physical Threat Levels, “SEVERE” means that an event is highly likely.

Please note that the Pandemic Threat Level has been lowered to **ELEVATED**.

FB-ISAO Cyber Threat Level:

Guarded

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Cyber Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as “GUARDED.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Cyber Threat Levels, “GUARDED” means FB-ISAO is unaware of any specific events, but a general risk of incidents exists.

Stories

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FB-ISAO Newsletter

Member Conversations

A Powerful Tool in Your Preparedness Tool Belt

By Mayya Saab, Executive Director, FB-ISAO

Recently, two members had an impromptu conversation, on a Slack channel, on the Faith-Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (FB-ISAO) Slack workspace (please note that this conversation occurred on a channel with 12 members. Direct messages between members occur privately between the recipients and cannot be accessed - not even by the admin.) The entire conversation is included in our [blog post](#) on this topic. Parts of the non-attribitional conversation are highlighted below with the members’ permission.

When I read the conversation, I was awed by the exchange for two reasons; first, the topic is one that many faith-based organizations are struggling to find answers to and second, because the two members found such huge value in the exchange - they shared best practices, made a connection, and learned from one another. For the purpose of writing this post, I asked the members about the value their membership in FB-ISAO in relation to this conversation. One of the members responded with “I probably never would have met ‘Member B’ nor had this conversation if I had not gotten to know him via the ISAO’s communications platform.” [Read more...](#)

Member A: We’re thinking about engaging CSS.

Member B: If you’re interested in engaging CSS, I am a member and in contact with their leadership. Also have good contacts into SCN & ADL if needed. We can also engage CISA.

Member A: How has your experience with CSS been? We’re looking at bringing them here.

Member B: Very good. It’s an organizational commitment, but worthwhile. I can discuss it with you by phone if you want.

Member A: I may take you up on it if it appears we’re solidly heading in that direction. We have an unarmed team at the shul, but I believe CSS would help us take it to another level.

Member B: Probably so. I’d be interested in hearing how your unarmed team integrates with armed security.

Welcome Ed Heyman to the ORG!

The [Operational Resilience Group](#) (ORG) is a key [working group](#) as its mission is to identify non-cybersecurity-related threats - those pertaining to man-made threats, natural hazards and health issues - relevant to the community and the associated risks, helping to inform the FB-ISAO physical threat level, developing actions members can consider given a specific threat level, and other activities relating to enhancing the awareness, security and resilience of our members and community, during both routine operations and during incidents relevant to the community. Members may also help inform FB-ISAO staff efforts relating to analysis, reporting, and services. The ORG may help vet physical security-related ideas and initiatives from members and staff. The ORG also hosts out Monthly Threat Briefs or as we like to refer to them, our MTBs.

FB-ISAO Advisory Board

Get to Know the Board of Advisors

Contact Us

Company Name

FB-ISAO

Email

Info@faithbased-isao.org

Website

www.faithbased-isao.org

Not Yet a Member of FB-ISAO?

[How to join...](#)

Not Yet on FB-ISAO Slack - You Need to Be!

[Write to membership](#)

Upcoming FB-ISAO Events

Hostile Event Preparedness Education	19 August
Member On-Boarding and Chat with the ED	20 August
Monthly Threat Brief	31 August
Illinois Faith-Based Security Primer	09 September

David Pounder and Rob Yandow have been the Co-Chairs of the ORG since it was stood up. Rob Yandow, who is the National Sector Chief InfraGard Emergency Services Sector, will be focusing his attention on his InfraGard duties and will no longer be the Co-Chair of the ORG. We want to thank Rob for his leadership. Rob was instrumental in helping the ORG develop its threat level statements throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic and through the period of civil unrest that occurred in late 2020 and early 2021. Rob was also a key developer of the content delivered during the MTBs.

Please join us in welcoming Ed Heyman to the position of Co-Chair of the ORG! As a government contractor helping stand up and train specialized intelligence teams, Ed was responsible for keeping up to date on group threats, modus operandi, and how to process real time information to perform quick source and threat assessments in dynamic and rapidly changing environments, as well as extensive field research conducted over the years. He is a graduate of the College of Social Studies at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, and a master's degree in International Relations from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is extremely active in the Orange County, California Jewish community where he has lived since 1979.

Spotlight: NSGP Awards Announced

In late July we saw multiple announcements, from various states, that awards under the Non-Profit Grant Program (NSGP) have been made. As [lawmakers in the state of Connecticut](#) gathered to announce the release of the first round of grants in their state, state Senator Saud Anwar said "We are all united. As one voice we stand together and say that if you attack one, you attack all. And we are going to stay united and make sure we protect each other." We, at FB-ISAO, strongly believe in that statement as we provide capabilities for the community to become STONGER TOGETHER.

According to the [Jewish Insider](#) "In total, nonprofits submitted 3,361 applications requesting nearly \$400 million in NSGP funds, far outstripping the \$180 million appropriated by Congress for the 2021 fiscal year. Of those, 1,532 applications were approved".

Though many organizations applied, not all could be awarded. Those organizations who didn't get awarded funds under the NSGP should not despair. Much of the work that they accomplished towards applying can be used to submit another application during the next round of funding. And for the many organizations that didn't apply for funding under the program, now is the time to start preparing to apply in the near future.

The #grants channel on our FB-ISAO collaborative workspace holds many resources to help faith-based organizations think through the grant process. On 26 March 2021 an FB-ISAO member shared an FAQ for 2021 NSGP grant applicants. The document is available as a pinned item on the #grants channel. To learn about accessing pinned items, please refer to this [help article](#).

One the barriers to applying for funding under the NSGP is that organizations have to fund the improvements themselves before they can submit a claim for reimbursement. For many small faith-based organizations this presents a HUGE challenge as funding is already tight with many competing priorities. [The Hebrew Free Loan Society \(HFLS\)](#) can help facilities located in New York meet that challenge. There may be other programs in other states that do the same.

Please be on the look-out for a survey! FB-ISAO will send out an NSGP grant survey in the coming few weeks to all our members. We are hoping to collect data about some of those barriers to applying and to share that data with our partners. By participating in the survey, you have the option to enter your name into a drawing for a free one-year professional license with FB-ISAO. We plan to give away 5-10 such licenses.