

December 19, 2025

## **A Message from the California Homeland Security Advisor to California Community Leaders and Houses of Worship**

The recent attack on the Hanukkah Celebration in Australia, the disrupted attack in Bavaria, Germany to a Christmas market, and the recent arrest of four individuals planning a series of bombings at commercial sites in Los Angeles underscores the need to protect events where we come together in celebration of the holidays. I am reaching out to offer support to California's faith-based communities who have been impacted or concerned by these recent events.

***At this time, we are unaware of any specific, credible threats to California communities during this holiday season.*** However, we recognize that in the current threat environment, places where people gather in celebration remain at risk to the threats of violence posed by those espousing and inspired by extremist ideologies. I encourage our faith and community leaders to exercise vigilance by increasing your overall situational awareness and maintaining close contact with your respective law enforcement entities. Information sharing is one of the most valuable tools we have to mitigate the threat of targeted violence and will allow local law enforcement to take appropriate action quickly.

All community members are encouraged to immediately report any suspicious activity through proper channels, to include your local law enforcement agency, and/or local fusion center. Included are additional resources to assist you in protecting our communities from targeted violence.

- **Contact Your Fusion Center:** [California State Threat Assessment System](#)
- **DHS Mitigating Attacks on Houses of Worship – Security Guide**
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- **Cal OES Active Shooter Guidance**
  - [Cal OES Active Shooter Guidance](#)
- **California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) Training**
  - [California Specialized Training Institute](#)



- **Nonprofit Security Grant Program – Federal**
  - This nationwide grant provides funding support for target hardening and security enhancement activities to nonprofit organizations and houses of worship.
  - [Nonprofit Security Grant Program \(NSGP\)](#)
- **California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program - State**
  - Much like its federal counterpart, this grant helps bolster the physical and virtual security of non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, and houses of worship.
  - Faith-based and non-profit organizations may apply for these grants through a competitive process.
  - Since the grant's inception in 2015, **funding has been distributed to 1,271 entities** across California, totaling more than **\$318 million**.
  - In **2024**, we saw a record number of applications, **1,609 applicants** with **\$80 million in funding available to recipients**.
  - [California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program \(CSNSGP\)](#)
- **Vulnerability Assessment Assistance**
  - Assistance is available to faith-based and non-profit organizations to assist with risk and vulnerability assessments, physical security enhancements, cybersecurity enhancements, security plan review, and connections to key partners in law enforcement and emergency services.
  - Email: [VA@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:VA@caloes.ca.gov).

As the Homeland Security Advisor for the State of California, I assure you that the entire team here at Cal OES, the six California fusion centers, and our partner public safety organizations, will continue to proactively engage with you. We continue to coordinate with local, state, federal and international law enforcement, and intelligence agencies to maintain awareness of all emerging threats and to work tirelessly to protect our communities.

Sincerely,



NANCY WARD  
 Director  
 California Homeland Security Advisor