NEWS FROM
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Senator Felder Encourages Schools, Shuls and Non-profits to Apply for Grants up to $200,000 to Boost Security and Stop Hate Crimes

(Midwood, NY) --- New York State Senator Simcha Felder is encouraging nonpublic schools, houses of worship, day care and community centers, and other organizations that could be a target of hate crimes to apply for a new $60 Million Grant Program to increase their facility's safety and security.

Starting today, New York State is accepting applications of up to $200,000 for the Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes Program (SCAHC). This program is aimed at improving safety and security at facilities which are at risk of hate crimes or attacks because of their ideology, beliefs, or mission.

"Since the despicable Hamas attacks of October 7, there has been a shameful and dangerous rise in antisemitic hate speech and violence," said Senator Felder. "This funding will help protect our children and families and unfortunately, it is more important now than ever before."

According to the most recent statewide data, hate crimes increased by 90% between 2020 and 2022. NYPD statistics show that monthly hate crime incidents have almost doubled since October 7, 2023, according to the Hate Crimes Dashboard.

Created in 2017, the SCAHC program provides funding to strengthen security measures and prevent hate crimes. This funding can be used to support exterior or interior security improvements, including lighting, locks, alarms, fencing, barriers, shatter-resistant glass, and measures to strengthen cybersecurity. The New York Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is administering the grants and will accept applications for up to $200,000 per organization. Applications must be submitted to DCJS by Friday, May 17, 2024. To apply for this funding, please visit https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/ofpa/index.htm.

"No price is too high when we are talking about protecting people from hate and violence. Safety and security is our top priority! Every yeshiva, shul and daycare must have the funds necessary to ensure that everyone on their premises can return home safely to their family at the end of the day," concluded Senator Felder.

For more information about the Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes grant program, contact the DCJS Office of Program Development and Funding at (518) 457-9787 or dcjsfunding@dcjs.ny.gov.

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