

## RTWS Grant

### Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research - Quarterly Progress Report

#### General Grant Information

**Grantee Name: Arkansas Department of Public Safety**

**Grant Name: Right to Worship Safely Grant Program**

**Report Quarter Ending: April 30, 2024**

**Date of Submission: April 24, 2024**

#### **A. Summary of Grant Activities**

The Right to Worship Safely (RTWS) Grant opened in January of 2024. The Department of Public Safety received thirty-one (31) applications with requests totaling \$2,139,421.00. Six (6) of these applications met the qualifications and were awarded a total of \$227,792.00 in February 2024. All award checks were processed by fiscal and mailed by the close of March 2024.

➤ **2024 RTWS Grant Awardees:**

Congregation Agudath Achim	\$43,200.00
Congregation B'nai Israel	\$74,449.00
Congregation House of Israel	\$11,273.00
Lubavitch of Arkansas	\$60,000.00
St. Mary's Catholic Church Hot Springs	\$8,065.00
Subiaco Abbey	\$30,805.00

#### **B. Status Update on Future Activities**

The RTWS Grant has a remaining balance of \$272,208.00. DPS plans to open the grant again later in the FY25 fiscal year (September 2024) to award the remaining funds.

#### **C. Status of Deliverables**

Grant awardees will submit their quarterly reports by May 31, 2024, to DPS. At this time, we will receive updates on how the funds were spent and what progress they have made in supporting physical security enhancements and other security activity projects serving to assist their nonprofit ideology-based/spiritual/religious entities in the prevention, protection against, preparedness for, and response to terrorist threat(s) and/or other extremist attack(s).

#### **D. Key Issues and Technical Assistance Needs**

The current guidelines for the RTWS Grant Program only allowed consideration for organizations that received a credible threat in the last twelve (12) months. We are researching if this timeline should expand. Many applicants had viable threats but did not meet the twelve (12) month timeline.

#### **E. Promising Practices and Success Stories**

We plan to provide updates after quarterly reporting starts.

#### **F. Additional Information**

The Department of Public Safety received numerous questions on and interest in the grant program after its initial posting. The number of applications for the next round are expected to be higher.