

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1464

To provide grants to State, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies to obtain behavioral health crisis response training for law enforcement officers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2019

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. BROWN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide grants to State, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies to obtain behavioral health crisis response training for law enforcement officers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Law Enforcement
5 Training for Mental Health Crisis Response Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Law enforcement officers routinely respond
2 to emergencies involving individuals suffering from a
3 mental health crisis.

4 (2) Recent statistics have shown that as many
5 as—

6 (A) 1 in every 10 calls for police response
7 involve a person suffering from a mental illness;

8 (B) 1 in every 4 people killed by police suf-
9 fer from a mental health problem; and

10 (C) 1 in 3 people transported to a hospital
11 emergency room for psychiatric reasons are
12 taken by the police.

13 (3) Law enforcement response calls to individ-
14 uals suffering from substance use disorder have in-
15 creased during the current opioid epidemic.

16 (4) There is a need to ensure that law enforce-
17 ment officers have access to proper evidence-based
18 training in responding to mental health crises.

19 (5) Proper training for response to individuals
20 suffering from a mental health crisis can better pro-
21 tect the safety of the general public and law enforce-
22 ment officers.

23 (6) Law enforcement officers in the United
24 States can better serve their communities if the law

1 enforcement officers receive training to effectively
2 and safely resolve the mental health crises.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide
4 grants to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies
5 to obtain behavioral health crisis response training for law
6 enforcement officers to—

7 (1) better train law enforcement officers to re-
8 solve behavioral health crisis situations;

9 (2) reduce the number of law enforcement offi-
10 cers killed or injured while responding to a behav-
11 ioral health crisis; and

12 (3) reduce the number of individuals killed or
13 injured during a behavioral health crisis in which a
14 law enforcement officer responds.

15 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) APPLICANT.—The term “applicant” means
18 a law enforcement agency that applies for a grant
19 under section 4.

20 (2) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The term “Attorney
21 General” means the Attorney General, acting
22 through the Assistant Attorney General for the Of-
23 fice of Justice Programs.

24 (3) CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The
25 term “chief law enforcement officer” has the mean-

1 ing given the term in section 922(s) of title 18,
2 United States Code.

3 (4) GRANT FUNDS.—The term “grant funds”
4 means funds from a grant awarded under section 4.

5 (5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
6 has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in
7 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
8 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

9 (6) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term
10 “law enforcement agency” means an agency of a
11 State, unit of local government, or Indian Tribe that
12 is authorized by law or by a government agency to
13 engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, in-
14 vestigation, or prosecution of any violation of crimi-
15 nal law.

16 (7) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means a
17 program or class that—

18 (A) provides instructional training to law
19 enforcement officers for response to a behav-
20 ioral health crisis, including response to people
21 suspected to be under the influence of a drug
22 or psychoactive substance, and response to cir-
23 cumstances in which a person is suspected to be
24 suicidal or suffering from a mental illness; and

1 (B) includes training on techniques and
2 strategies designed to protect the health and
3 safety of law enforcement officers and the pub-
4 lic, including the person or persons a law en-
5 forcement officer encounters during a behav-
6 ioral health crisis response.

7 (8) RECIPIENT.—The term “recipient” means
8 an applicant that receives a grant under section 4.

9 (9) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
10 ing given the term in section 901 of title I of the
11 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of
12 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10251).

13 **SEC. 4. GRANTS.**

14 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General
15 shall award grants to applicants for—

16 (1) law enforcement officers to receive training
17 from behavioral health crisis response program; and

18 (2) the cost of transportation and lodging asso-
19 ciated with law enforcement officers attending pro-
20 gram.

21 (b) PROGRAM STANDARDS.—The Attorney General
22 shall establish and publish qualification standards for or-
23 ganizations that provide behavioral health crisis response
24 programs.

25 (c) APPLICATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The chief law enforcement
2 officer of an applicant shall submit to the Attorney
3 General an application that—

4 (A) shall include—

5 (i) a statement describing the pro-
6 gram the law enforcement officers will
7 complete;

8 (ii) the total number of law enforce-
9 ment officers in the agency;

10 (iii) the number of law enforcement
11 officers of the agency that have been killed,
12 or seriously injured while responding to a
13 behavioral health crisis during the 5-year-
14 period preceding the date of the applica-
15 tion; and

16 (iv) whether the law enforcement offi-
17 cers employed by the agency receive any
18 behavioral health crisis response training,
19 including during basic police officer train-
20 ing; and

21 (B) in addition to the information required
22 under subparagraph (A), may, at the option of
23 the applicant, include information relating to—

24 (i) recent incidents involving law en-
25 forcement officers of the agency in which

1 behavioral health crisis response training
2 could have played a role in protecting the
3 safety of the law enforcement officer or the
4 public, including the persons or persons
5 the law enforcement officers encountered;
6 and

7 (ii) estimated cost of attendance of a
8 program per law enforcement officer.

9 (d) RESTRICTIONS.—

10 (1) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS.—Grant funds shall
11 be used to supplement, and not supplant, State,
12 local, and tribal funds made available to any appli-
13 cant for any of the purposes described in subsection
14 (a).

15 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 3
16 percent of any grant made under this section may
17 be used for administrative costs.

18 (e) REPORTS AND RECORDS.—

19 (1) REPORTS.—For each year during which
20 grant funds are used, the recipient shall submit to
21 the Attorney General a report containing—

22 (A) a summary of any activity carried out
23 using grant funds;

24 (B) the number of officers that received
25 training using grant funds; and

1 (C) any other information relevant to the
2 purpose of this Act that the Attorney General
3 may determine appropriate.

4 (2) RECORDS.—For the purpose of an audit by
5 the Attorney General of the receipt and use of grant
6 funds, a recipient shall—

7 (A) keep—

8 (i) any record relating to the receipt
9 and use of grant funds; and

10 (ii) any other record as the Attorney
11 General may require; and

12 (B) make the records described in subpara-
13 graph (A) available to the Attorney General
14 upon request by the Attorney General.

15 **SEC. 5. USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.**

16 Of the total amount appropriated to carry out the
17 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant under
18 subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Con-
19 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10151 et
20 seq.) for each of fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022,
21 \$5,000,000 shall be used to carry out this Act for each
22 such fiscal year.

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