

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2698

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2019

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma (for herself and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was 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 has 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) Our Nation's law enforcement officers can
24 better serve their communities if they receive train-

1 ing to effectively and safely resolve the mental
2 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 crises, including response to people
21 suspected to be under the influence of a drug
22 or substance, and response to circumstances in
23 which a person is suspected to be suicidal or
24 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 a behavioral health crisis response program;
18 and

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

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

1 (c) APPLICATIONS.—

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

5 (A) shall include—

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

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

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

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

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

(i) recent incidents involving law enforcement officers of the agency in which behavioral health crisis response training could have played a role in protecting the safety of the law enforcement officer or the public, including the person or persons the law enforcement officers encountered; and

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

(d) RESTRICTIONS.—

(1) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS.—Grant funds shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, State, local, and tribal funds made available to any applicant for any of the purposes described in subsection (a).

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

(e) REPORTS AND RECORDS.—

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

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

1 (B) the number of officers that received
2 training using grant funds; and

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

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

9 (A) keep—

10 (i) any record relating to the receipt
11 and use of grant funds; and

12 (ii) any other record as the Attorney
13 General may require; and

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

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

18 Of the total amount appropriated to carry out the
19 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant under
20 subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Con-
21 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10151 et
22 seq.) for each of fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022,
23 \$5,000,000 shall be used to carry out this Act for each
24 such fiscal year.

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