

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8803

To establish the National Telephone Hotline and Online Resource Service for Victims of Police Violence and Harassment, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Mr. MCEACHIN (for himself, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. RICHMOND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish the National Telephone Hotline and Online Resource Service for Victims of Police Violence and Harassment, and for other purposes.

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 “Justice Hotline Act
5 of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL TELEPHONE HOTLINE AND ONLINE RE-**
7 **SOURCE SERVICE FOR VICTIMS OF POLICE**
8 **VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in fiscal year 2021,
10 and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Attorney General,

1 in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human
2 Services (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”),
3 shall make grants for a national, confidential telephone
4 hotline and online resource service to assist victims of law
5 enforcement officer violence and harassment in commu-
6 nicating with service providers. The Attorney General
7 shall give priority to grant applicants that have experience
8 in providing services and supports to victims of law en-
9 forcement officer violence or harassment.

10 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Eligible entities shall in-
11 clude the following:

12 (1) Institutions of higher learning, such as His-
13 torically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority
14 serving institution, and Tribal College or Univer-
15 sities.

16 (2) Private nonprofit agencies.

17 (c) GRANTS.—The Attorney General, in coordination
18 with the Secretary, shall make grants which shall be used
19 for the performance of the organization’s national pro-
20 grams, including the following:

21 (1) Operation of a confidential 24-hour, na-
22 tional, toll-free telephone hotline and a confidential
23 24-hour, national, free online resource service for
24 victims of law enforcement officer violence, law en-
25 forcement officer harassment, family and household

1 members of such victims, and persons affected by
2 the victimization, by which individuals may—

3 (A) report information regarding the loca-
4 tion of any law enforcement officer violence or
5 harassment; and

6 (B) request information pertaining to pro-
7 cedures necessary to file formal complaints
8 against law enforcement officers; receive infor-
9 mation and assistance for adult and youth vic-
10 tims of law enforcement officer violence, law en-
11 forcement officer harassment, family and house-
12 hold members of such victims, and persons af-
13 fected by the victimization.

14 (2) Providing to State and local governments,
15 public and private nonprofit agencies, State and
16 local educational agencies, and individuals, resource
17 information regarding victims of law enforcement of-
18 ficer violence, law enforcement officer harassment,
19 family and household members of such victims, and
20 persons affected by the victimization.

21 (d) ACTIVITIES.—In establishing and operating the
22 telephone hotline and online resource service, the entity—

23 (1) shall contract with a carrier for the use of
24 a toll-free, single telephone line;

1 (2) shall employ, train (including providing
2 technology training), and supervise personnel to an-
3 swer incoming calls and online messages, provide
4 counseling and referral services on a 24-hour-a-day
5 basis, and direct connections to service providers;

6 (3) shall assemble and maintain a database of
7 information relating to services for adult and youth
8 victims of law enforcement officer violence or harass-
9 ment to which callers may be referred throughout
10 the United States, including information on the
11 availability of supportive services for victims of law
12 enforcement officer violence or harassment;

13 (4) shall widely publicize the contact informa-
14 tion of the telephone hotline and online resource
15 service throughout the United States, including to
16 potential users;

17 (5) shall provide assistance and referrals to
18 meet the needs of underserved populations and indi-
19 viduals with disabilities;

20 (6) shall collect audio or visual recordings, if
21 applicable;

22 (7) shall provide assistance and referrals for
23 youth victims of law enforcement officer violence or
24 harassment who are minors;

1 (8) shall collect geographic information relating
2 to the location, time, and date of the law enforce-
3 ment officer violence or harassment;

4 (9) shall not collect any personally identifiable
5 information unless informed consent is provided by
6 the person who is the subject of an incident of law
7 enforcement officer harassment or violence and by
8 the person who reports an incident of law enforce-
9 ment officer harassment or violence, if such person
10 is not the subject of the incident; and

11 (10) may provide appropriate assistance and re-
12 ferrals for family and household members of victims
13 of law enforcement officer violence and harassment,
14 and persons affected by the victimization described
15 in subsection (c)(1).

16 (e) GRANT APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive
17 a grant under this section, an entity shall submit an appli-
18 cation to the Attorney General that shall—

19 (1) contain such agreements, assurances, and
20 information, be in such form, and be submitted in
21 such manner, as the Attorney General shall pre-
22 scribe;

23 (2) include a complete description of the appli-
24 cant's plan for the operation of a telephone hotline

1 and online resource service, including descriptions
2 of—

3 (A) the training program for telephone
4 hotline and online resource service personnel,
5 including technology training to ensure that all
6 persons affiliated with the telephone hotline and
7 online resource service are able to effectively op-
8 erate any technological systems used by the
9 telephone hotline and online resource service;

10 (B) the hiring criteria and qualifications
11 for telephone hotline and online resource service
12 personnel;

13 (C) the methods for the creation, mainte-
14 nance, and updating of an online resource serv-
15 ice;

16 (D) a plan for publicizing the availability
17 of the telephone hotline and online resource
18 service;

19 (E) plan for providing services to Limited
20 English Proficient individuals, including service
21 through telephone hotline and online resource
22 service personnel who have non-English lan-
23 guage capabilities; and

24 (F) a plan for facilitating access to the
25 telephone hotline and online resource service by

1 persons with disabilities, including persons who
2 are deaf or have hearing impairments;

3 (3) demonstrate that the applicant has recog-
4 nized expertise in the area of social service oper-
5 ations and a record of high quality service to victims
6 of violence and harassment, including a demonstra-
7 tion of support from advocacy groups;

8 (4) demonstrate that the applicant has the ca-
9 pacity and the expertise to maintain a telephone hot-
10 line and online resource service and a comprehensive
11 database of service providers for victims of law en-
12 forcement violence and harassment;

13 (5) demonstrate the ability to provide informa-
14 tion and referrals for callers, directly connect callers
15 to service providers, and employ crisis interventions
16 meeting the standards;

17 (6) demonstrate that the applicant has a com-
18 mitment to diversity and to the provision of services
19 to underserved populations, including to ethnic, ra-
20 cial, and non-English speaking minorities, in addi-
21 tion to older individuals and individuals with disabil-
22 ities;

23 (7) demonstrate that the applicant complies
24 with non-disclosure requirements and follows com-
25 prehensive quality assurance practices; and

1 (8) contain such other information as the Attor-
2 ney General may require.

3 (f) NOTICE.—The national telephone hotline and the
4 URL of the online resource service described in this sec-
5 tion shall be posted in a visible place in all Federal build-
6 ings.

7 (g) DURATION.—Grants awarded to eligible entities
8 and institutions under this subsection shall be 2 years in
9 duration. A grant may be extended for additional 2-year
10 periods.

11 (h) CONDITIONS ON PAYMENT.—The provision of
12 payments under a grant awarded under this section shall
13 be subject to annual approval by the Attorney General and
14 subject to the availability of appropriations for each fiscal
15 year to make the payment.

16 (i) GRANTEE REPORT.—Each eligible entity or insti-
17 tution that receives a grant shall submit a yearly report
18 to the Attorney General detailing how the grant recipient
19 has been able to meet the goals of its plans and reporting
20 the statistical summaries.

21 (j) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
22 after the date of enactment of this Act, and every year
23 thereafter, the Attorney General shall report to Congress
24 on the implementation operations and statistical sum-
25 maries developed and collected under this section and pol-

1 icy changes made within the Department of Justice in re-
2 sponse to the implementation operations and statistical
3 summaries.

4 (k) GAO REVIEW AND REPORT.—

5 (1) REVIEW.—Not later than 2 years after the
6 date on which the Attorney General establishes the
7 national telephone hotline and online resource serv-
8 ice to assist victims of law enforcement officer vio-
9 lence and harassment in communicating with service
10 providers, the Comptroller General of the United
11 States shall conduct a review of the program to en-
12 sure the effectiveness of the telephone hotline and
13 online resource service in enhancing awareness and
14 education of services available to victims of law en-
15 forcement officer violence or harassment, which shall
16 include—

17 (A) an assessment of the effectiveness of
18 the telephone hotline and online resource serv-
19 ice, including—

20 (i) assessing the effectiveness of the
21 telephone hotline and online resource serv-
22 ice in reaching underserved and minority
23 communities;

24 (ii) assessing the effectiveness of
25 grant recipients to undertake efforts to

1 educate the public about the telephone hot-
2 line and online resource service; and

3 (iii) a comprehensive review of the ac-
4 tivities data described in subsection (d);
5 and

6 (B) recommendations for any changes to
7 the program.

8 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after
9 the date on which the Comptroller General of the
10 United States begins the review required under
11 paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit
12 to the appropriate congressional committees a report
13 on the review.

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