

Certain Grants for First Responder Agencies

Sunset Overview

Purpose

The grants for first responder agencies that are being considered for sunset were established by [HB 23, First Responder Mental Health Services Amendments](#), during the 2022 General Session.

The grant program is administered by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and award grants to first responder agencies to provide mental health resources for first responders. DPS has promulgated administrative rules for the administration of the grant program in [R714-570: Mental Health Resources for First Responders Grant Funding](#).

Grant funds may not be used to support a program that is already in place, but may be used to fund an expansion of an already existing program. DPS is required to prioritize awards for small first responder agencies, and is permitted to take into account whether the small first responder agency is participating in department-provided resources as defined in [53-21-104.1](#).

Current Committee/Program Funding*

Original Funding Available: \$10,000,000 one-time General Fund. This was received in two separate legislative sessions (2023 General Session and 2024 General Session).

There are two programs:

Program 1: Grants to first responder agencies that apply and are awarded for 1 year of mental health costs after which the agencies must fund their mental health program. (\$9,087,112 available)

Grant funds spent:

- Awarded to date to first responder agencies - \$8,620,047
- Estimated administrative expenses (including staffing and tracking software) total approximately \$325,000 cumulatively through the end of June 2026

Program 2: Critical Incident Support funds are paid by DPS to a provider for critical support for qualified small first responder agencies (\$912,888 available).

Grant Funds Spent: \$6,250

Program 1 and 2 Remaining Estimated Funds Available EOY FY 2026 - \$1,048,703

2026 GS Legislation is taking \$800,000 from these remaining funds and putting this money into a new restricted account to be distributed to DPS.

Remaining grant funds after the \$800,000 take back - \$248,703

This money then is available for Program 1 and Program 2. The new bill takes the place of Program 2 funds. As DPS has had no recent requests for Program 1 grants, this money will



likely be repurposed by the legislature or may be put into the new program set up by HB 416 2026 GS.

From the new restricted account DPS receives \$112,500/yr ongoing and \$15,000 1x (from \$800,000 that was put into the new restricted fund. This appropriation will fund, if agencies participate, small first responder agencies mental health costs. In order to receive grant funds, an agency must pay into the program \$25 annually per each first responder in their agency.

** Committee/Program Funding information provided by the Department of Public Service.*

Current Sunset Date

July 1, 2027 (Utah Code Section [63I-1-253](#))

Sections of Code that Sunset

- [53-21-103](#)
- [53-21-105\(3\)\(d\)](#)

~~53-21-103. Grants to first responder agencies—Rulemaking.~~

~~(1) The department may award grants to first responder agencies to provide mental health resources in response to a:~~

- ~~(a) request for proposal;~~
- ~~(b) request for qualifications; or~~
- ~~(c) program description that meets the criteria in Subsection (2).~~

~~(2) The request for proposal, request for qualifications, or program description received by the department shall require mental health providers contracted or employed by the first responder agency to have training and experience in working with first responders and provide mental health resources.~~

~~(3) An application from a first responder agency for a grant under this chapter shall provide the following details:~~

- ~~(a) a proposed plan to provide mental health resources to first responders in the first responder agency;~~
- ~~(b) the number of first responders to be served by the proposed plan;~~
- ~~(c) how the proposed plan will ensure timely and effective provision of mental health resources to first responders in the first responder agency;~~
- ~~(d) the cost of the proposed plan; and~~
- ~~(e) the sustainability of the proposed plan.~~

~~(4) In evaluating a project proposal for a grant under this section, the department shall consider:~~

- ~~(a) the extent to which the first responders that will be served by the proposed plan are likely to benefit from the proposed plan;~~
- ~~(b) the cost of the proposed plan; and~~
- ~~(c) the viability of the proposed plan.~~

~~(5) A first responder agency may not apply for a grant to fund a program already in place. However, a request for proposal to fund an expansion of an already existing program shall, in addition to the requirements of Subsection (4), provide:~~



- (a) the scope and cost of the agency's current program;
- (b) the number of additional first responders the expansion will serve; and
- (c) whether the expansion will provide mental health resources that the current program does not provide.

~~(6) The department shall prioritize grant funding for small first responder agencies, and may also take into account whether the small first responder agency is or will participate in the department provided services described in Section 53-21-104.1.~~

~~(7) The department may adopt rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to administer this chapter.~~

~~(8) The department shall notify entities that may be eligible for a grant under this section about the grant program.~~

~~(9) The department may assist a first responder agency in drafting a grant application under this section.~~

~~(10) The department may use up to 25% of the remaining grant funds under this section to provide the mental health resources described in Section 53-21-104.1.~~

53-21-105. Mental Health Resources for First Responders Restricted Account.

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "Account" means the Mental Health Resources for First Responders Restricted Account created in this section.
- (b) "Committee" means the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee.
- (c) "Contributing first responder agency" means a small first responder agency that contributes funds to the account.

(2) There is created within the General Fund a restricted fund known as the "Mental Health Resources for First Responders Restricted Account."

(3) The account consists of:

- (a) appropriations of the Legislature;
- (b) amounts deposited into the account in accordance with this section;
- (c) gifts, grants, donations, or any other conveyance of money that may be made to the account from private sources;
- ~~(d) the funds described in Subsection 53-21-103(10); and~~
- (e) interest earned on money in the account.

(4)

- (a) The account shall earn interest.
- (b) Interest earned on the account shall be deposited into the account.

(5)

- (a) A small first responder agency may contribute funds to the account.
- (b) If a small first responder agency contributes to the account, the small first responder agency shall contribute to the account as described in this section.

(6) In a fiscal year that begins on or after July 1, 2026, a contributing first responder agency shall annually contribute \$25 per first responder employed by the contributing first responder agency.

(7) The department shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, for:

- (a) a process for collecting contributing first responder agency contributions to the account described in this section; and



- (b) a process for depositing into the account contributing first responder agency contributions described in this section.
- (8) Subject to appropriations from the Legislature, the department may use money in the account:
 - (a) to provide the mental health resources to an eligible first responder agency as described in Section 53-1-104.1; and
 - (b) for administrative support related to providing the mental health resources described in Section 53-1-104.1.