

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Karen Kwan

Senate Sponsor: Daniel W. Thatcher

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill relates to mental health resources for first responders.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms; and
- ▶ requires the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health to administer a grant program to provide mental health resources for first responders.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2022:

- ▶ to Department of Human Services -- Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Community Mental Health Services, as a one-time appropriation:
 - from the General Fund, One-time, \$→ [~~\$1,000,000~~] \$500,000 ←\$.

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

63I-2-262, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 212

ENACTS:

62A-15-120, Utah Code Annotated 1953

H.B. 248



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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **62A-15-120** is enacted to read:

62A-15-120. Mental health resources for first responders grant program.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "First responder" means:

(i) a law enforcement officer, as defined in Section [53-13-103](#);

(ii) an emergency medical technician, as defined in Section [26-8c-102](#);

(iii) an advanced emergency medical technician, as defined in Section [26-8c-102](#);

(iv) a paramedic, as defined in Section [26-8c-102](#);

(v) a firefighter, as defined in Section [34A-3-113](#);

(vi) a dispatcher, as defined in Section [53-6-102](#); or

(vii) a correctional officer, as defined in Section [53-13-104](#).

(b) "First responder **↔** **[district] agency** **↔** " means **↔** **[the same as that term is defined in Section 17B-1-505.] a local district, municipality, interlocal entity, or other political subdivision that employs a first responder to provide fire protection, paramedic, law enforcement, or emergency services.** **↔**

(c) "Mental health resources" means:

(i) an assessment to determine appropriate mental health treatment that is performed by a mental health therapist;

(ii) outpatient mental health treatment provided by a mental health therapist; or

(iii) peer support services provided by a peer support specialist who is qualified to provide peer support services under Subsection [62A-15-103\(2\)\(h\)](#).

(d) "Mental health therapist" means the same as that term is defined in Section [58-60-102](#).

(e) "Project" means a project to implement or expand a program that provides mental health resources to first responders for which the division awards a grant under this section.

(2) On or before July 1, 2021, the division shall issue a **↔** **[project proposal]** **↔** request **↔** **for proposals** **↔** in accordance with this section to award a grant to one or more first responder **↔** **[districts]** **↔** agencies **↔** to implement a project.

(3) The purpose of a project is to provide mental health resources for first responders.

(4) An application for a grant under this section shall:

(a) explain how first responders will benefit from the provision of mental health

59 resources; and

60 (b) provide details regarding:

61 (i) how the proposed project plans to provide mental health resources to first

62 responders in the first responder $\hat{H} \rightarrow$ [district] agency $\leftarrow \hat{H}$;

63 (ii) the number of first responders served by the proposed project;

64 (iii) how the proposed project will ensure timely and effective provision of mental

65 health resources to first responders in the first responder $\hat{H} \rightarrow$ [district] agency $\leftarrow \hat{H}$;

66 (iv) the cost of the proposed project; and

67 (v) the sustainability of the proposed project.

68 (5) In evaluating a project proposal for a grant under this section, the division shall

69 consider:

70 (a) the extent to which the proposed project will fulfill the purpose described in

71 Subsection (3);

72 (b) the extent to which the first responders that will be served by the proposed project

73 are likely to benefit from the proposed project;

74 (c) the cost of the proposed project; and

75 (d) the viability of the proposed project.

76 (6) Before June 30, 2022, the division shall report to the Law Enforcement and

77 Criminal Justice Interim Committee regarding:

78 (a) each first responder $\hat{H} \rightarrow$ [district] agency $\leftarrow \hat{H}$ awarded a grant under this section; and

79 (b) the details of each project.

80 (7) Before June 30, 2024, the division shall report to the Law Enforcement and

81 Criminal Justice Interim Committee regarding:

82 (a) any knowledge gained regarding provision of mental health resources to first

83 responders;

84 (b) data gathered in relation to each project;

85 (c) recommendations for the future use of mental health resources to first responders;

86 and

87 (d) obstacles encountered in the provision of mental health resources to first

88 responders.

89 Section 2. Section **63I-2-262** is amended to read:

90 **63I-2-262. Repeal dates -- Title 62A.**

91 (1) Subsection [62A-5-103.1\(6\)](#) is repealed January 1, 2023.

92 [~~(2) Section [62A-5-111](#) is repealed January 1, 2021.~~]

93 (2) Section [62A-15-120](#) is repealed January 1, 2025.

94 Section 3. **Appropriation.**

95 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
96 2021, and ending June 30, 2022. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
97 fiscal year 2022. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures
98 Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts
99 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

100 ITEM 1

101 To Department of Human Services -- Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

102 From General Fund, One-time $\hat{\$} \rightarrow$ [\$1,000,000] \$500,000 $\leftarrow \hat{\$}$

103 Schedule of Programs:

104 Community Mental Health Services $\hat{\$} \rightarrow$ [\$1,000,000] \$500,000 $\leftarrow \hat{\$}$

105 The Legislature intends that:

106 (1) the appropriation under this item be used to award grants under Section
107 [62A-15-120](#); and

108 (2) under Section [63J-1-603](#), the one-time appropriation provided under this item not
109 lapse at the close of fiscal year 2022 and the use of any non-lapsing funds is limited to the
110 purposes described in Subsection (1) of this item.