

**MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR FIRST
RESPONDERS**

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Karen Kwan

Senate Sponsor: Daniel W. Thatcher

7	Cosponsors:	Sandra Hollins	Andrew Stoddard
8	Jefferson S. Burton	Marsha Judkins	Ryan D. Wilcox
9	Jennifer Dailey-Provost	Rosemary T. Lesser	Mike Winder
10	Matthew H. Gwynn	Paul Ray	
11	Suzanne Harrison	Angela Romero	

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, \$500,000.

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

29 AMENDS:

30 [63I-2-262](#), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 212

31 ENACTS:

32 [62A-15-120](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

35 Section 1. Section [62A-15-120](#) is enacted to read:

36 **[62A-15-120](#). **Mental health resources for first responders grant program.****

37 (1) As used in this section:

38 (a) "First responder" means:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

46 (b) "First responder agency" means a local district, municipality, interlocal entity, or
47 other political subdivision that employs a first responder to provide fire protection, paramedic,
48 law enforcement, or emergency services.

49 (c) "Mental health resources" means:

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

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

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

55 (d) "Mental health therapist" means the same as that term is defined in Section
56 [58-60-102](#).

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

59 (2) On or before July 1, 2021, the division shall issue a request for proposals in
60 accordance with this section to award a grant to one or more first responder agencies to
61 implement a project.

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

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

64 (a) explain how first responders will benefit from the provision of mental health
65 resources; and

66 (b) provide details regarding:

67 (i) how the proposed project plans to provide mental health resources to first
68 responders in the first responder agency;

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

70 (iii) how the proposed project will ensure timely and effective provision of mental
71 health resources to first responders in the first responder agency;

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

73 (v) the sustainability of the proposed project.

74 (5) In evaluating a project proposal for a grant under this section, the division shall
75 consider:

76 (a) the extent to which the proposed project will fulfill the purpose described in
77 Subsection (3);

78 (b) the extent to which the first responders that will be served by the proposed project
79 are likely to benefit from the proposed project;

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

81 (d) the viability of the proposed project.

82 (6) Before June 30, 2022, the division shall report to the Law Enforcement and
83 Criminal Justice Interim Committee regarding:

84 (a) each first responder agency awarded a grant under this section; and

85 (b) the details of each project.

86 (7) Before June 30, 2024, the division shall report to the Law Enforcement and
87 Criminal Justice Interim Committee regarding:

88 (a) any knowledge gained regarding provision of mental health resources to first
89 responders;

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

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

93 (d) obstacles encountered in the provision of mental health resources to first
94 responders.

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

96 **63I-2-262. Repeal dates -- Title 62A.**

97 (1) Subsection 62A-5-103.1(6) is repealed January 1, 2023.

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

99 (2) Section 62A-15-120 is repealed January 1, 2025.

100 Section 3. **Appropriation.**

101 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
102 2021, and ending June 30, 2022. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
103 fiscal year 2022. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures
104 Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts
105 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

106 ITEM 1

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

108 From General Fund, One-time \$500,000

109 Schedule of Programs:

110 Community Mental Health Services \$500,000

111 The Legislature intends that:

112 (1) the appropriation under this item be used to award grants under Section

113 62A-15-120; and
114 (2) under Section 63J-1-603, the one-time appropriation provided under this item not
115 lapse at the close of fiscal year 2022 and the use of any nonlapsing funds is limited to the
116 purposes described in Subsection (1) of this item.