

1 **FIRST RESPONDER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

2 **AMENDMENTS**

3 2022 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox**

6 Senate Sponsor: Don L. Ipson

7

LONG TITLE

8 **Committee Note:**

9 The Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee recommended this bill.

10 Legislative Vote: 10 voting for 0 voting against 6 absent

11 **General Description:**

12 This bill creates a grant program for mental health resources for first responders.

13 **Highlighted Provisions:**

14 This bill:

15 ▶ defines terms;

16 ▶ requires all first responder agencies to provide mental health resources for
17 employees, spouses, children, and retirees;

18 ▶ provides for the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health to administer a
19 grant program to provide mental health resources; and

20 ▶ makes technical changes.

21 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

22 This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2023:

23 ▶ to Department of Human Services -- Division of Substance Abuse and Mental
24 Health, Community Mental Health Services, as a one-time appropriation:

25 • from the General Fund, One-time, \$5,000,000.

26 **Other Special Clauses:**



28 None

29 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

30 AMENDS:

31 **63I-2-262**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapters 156, 204, and 278

32 ENACTS:

33 **53-20-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

34 **53-20-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

35 **53-20-103**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36 **53-20-104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

37 REPEALS:

38 **62A-15-120**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 156



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

41 Section 1. Section **53-20-101** is enacted to read:

42 **CHAPTER 20. MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR FIRST RESPONDERS**

43 **53-20-101. Title.**

44 This chapter is known as Mental Health Resources for First Responders.

45 Section 2. Section **53-20-102** is enacted to read:

46 **53-20-102. Definitions.**

47 (1) As used in this chapter:

48 (a) "Division" means the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health created in

49 Section **62A-15-103**.

50 (b) "First responder" means:

51 (i) a law enforcement officer, as defined in Section **53-13-103**;

52 (ii) an emergency medical technician, as defined in Section **26-8c-102**;

53 (iii) an advanced emergency medical technician, as defined in Section **26-8c-102**;

54 (iv) a paramedic, as defined in Section **26-8c-102**;

55 (v) a firefighter, as defined in Section **34A-3-113**;

56 (vi) a dispatcher, as defined in Section **53-6-102**;

57 (vii) a correctional officer, as defined in Section **53-13-104**; or

58 (viii) a search and rescue worker under the supervision of a local sheriff.

59 (c) "First responder agency" means a local district, municipality, interlocal entity, or
60 other political subdivision that employs a first responder to provide fire protection, paramedic,
61 law enforcement, or emergency services.

62 (d) "Mental health resources" means:

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

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

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

68 (e) "Mental health therapist" means the same as that term is defined in Section
69 58-60-102.

70 (f) "Plan" means a plan to implement or expand a program that provides mental health
71 resources to first responders for which the division awards a grant under this chapter.

72 Section 3. Section **53-20-103** is enacted to read:

73 **53-20-103. Mental health services -- Requirement to provide --- Confidentiality.**

74 (1) Every first responder agency within the state shall provide or make available mental
75 health resources to all employees, the spouse and children of employees, and persons who have
76 retired from the agency.

77 (2) All access by first responders and their families to mental health resources shall be
78 kept confidential.

79 Section 4. Section **53-20-104** is enacted to read:

80 **53-20-104. Grants to first responder agencies.**

81 (1) The division shall issue a request for proposal in accordance with this chapter to
82 award grants to first responder agencies to provide mental health resources.

83 (2) The request for proposal shall require mental health providers contracted or
84 employed by the first responder agency to have training and experience in working with first
85 responders and provide, at a minimum, the following services:

86 (a) regular periodic screenings for all employees within the first responder agency;

87 (b) assessments or debriefings for personnel involved in a critical incident within 12
88 hours of the incident; and

89 (c) access to the mental health program for:

90 (i) spouses and children of first responders; and

91 (ii) first responders who have retired from the agency.

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

94 (a) a proposed plan to provide mental health resources to first responders in the first
95 responder agency;

96 (b) the number of first responders to be served by the proposed plan;

97 (c) how the proposed plan will ensure timely and effective provision of mental health
98 resources to first responders in the first responder agency;

99 (d) the cost of the proposed plan; and

100 (e) the sustainability of the proposed plan.

101 (4) In evaluating a project proposal for a grant under this section, the division shall
102 consider:

103 (a) the extent to which the first responders that will be served by the proposed plan are
104 likely to benefit from the proposed plan;

105 (b) the cost of the proposed plan; and

106 (c) the viability of the proposed plan.

107 Section 5. Section **63I-2-262** is amended to read:

108 **63I-2-262. Repeal dates -- Title 62A.**

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

110 [~~2) Section **62A-15-120** is repealed January 1, 2025.~~]

111 [~~3)~~ (2) Section **62A-15-122** is repealed January 2, 2025.

112 [~~4)~~ (3) Title 62A, Chapter 15, Part 19, Mental Health Crisis Intervention Council, is
113 repealed January 1, 2023.

114 Section 6. **Repealer.**

115 This bill repeals:

116 Section **62A-15-120, Mental health resources for first responders grant program.**

117 Section 7. **Appropriation.**

118 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
119 2022, and ending June 30, 2023. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
120 fiscal year 2023. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures

121 Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts
122 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

123 ITEM 1

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

125 From General Fund, One-time \$5,000,000

126 Schedule of Programs:

127 Community Mental Health Services \$5,000,000

128 The Legislature intends that:

129 (1) the appropriation under this item be used to award grants under Title 53, Chapter
130 20, Mental Health Resources for First Responders; and

131 (2) under Section [63J-1-603](#), the one-time appropriation provided under this item not
132 lapse at the close of fiscal year 2023 and the use of any nonlapsing funds is limited to the
133 purposes described in Subsection (1) of this item.