

**MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR FIRST  
RESPONDERS**

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Karen Kwan**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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.

**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



*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 ~~in a~~ district agency ~~in a~~ " 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. ~~in a~~

(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 ~~request~~ project proposal ~~in~~ for proposals ~~in~~

accordance with this section to award a grant to one or more first responder ~~in~~ districts ~~in~~ agencies ~~in~~ 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

resources; and

(b) provide details regarding:

(i) how the proposed project plans to provide mental health resources to first responders in the first responder  $\hat{H} \rightarrow$  **[district] agency**  $\leftarrow \hat{H}$  ;

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

(iii) how the proposed project will ensure timely and effective provision of mental health resources to first responders in the first responder  $\hat{H} \rightarrow$  **[district] agency**  $\leftarrow \hat{H}$  ;

(iv) the cost of the proposed project; and

(v) the sustainability of the proposed project.

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

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

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

(c) the cost of the proposed project; and

(d) the viability of the proposed project.

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

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

(b) the details of each project.

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

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

(b) data gathered in relation to each project;

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

and

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Section 3. Appropriation.**

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

**ITEM 1**

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

From General Fund, One-time

\$1,000,000

Schedule of Programs:

Community Mental Health Services

\$1,000,000

The Legislature intends that:

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

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