
HOUSE BILL 2892

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Lovick, Hayes, Goodman, Klippert, Tarleton,
Slatter, McDonald, Frame, and Kloba

Read first time 01/22/18. Referred to Committee on Public Safety.

1 AN ACT Relating to the mental health field response teams
2 program; adding new sections to chapter 36.28A RCW; and providing an
3 expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 36.28A
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) When funded, the Washington association of sheriffs and
8 police chiefs shall develop and implement a mental health field
9 response team grant program. The purpose of the program is to assist
10 local law enforcement agencies to develop and operate mental health
11 field response team capabilities, utilizing mental health
12 professionals to professionally, humanely, and safely respond to
13 encounters involving persons with mental health issues.

14 (2) Grants must be awarded to local law enforcement agencies
15 based on locally developed proposals to incorporate mental health
16 professionals into the agencies' mental health field response
17 planning and response. Two or more agencies may submit a joint grant
18 proposal to develop their mental health field response proposals.
19 Proposals must provide a plan for improving mental health field
20 response through modifying or expanding law enforcement practices in
21 partnership with mental health professionals. A peer review panel

1 appointed by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs
2 in consultation with behavioral health organizations must review the
3 grant applications. Once the Washington association of sheriffs and
4 police chiefs certifies that the application satisfies the proposal
5 criteria, the state will distribute the grant funds. To the extent
6 possible, at least one grant recipient agency should be from the east
7 side of the state and one from the west side of the state with the
8 crest of the Cascades being the dividing line. Grant recipients must
9 be selected and receiving funds no later than October 1, 2018.

10 (3) Grant recipients must include at least one department of
11 social and health services designated mental health professional who
12 will perform professional services under the plan. A mental health
13 professional may assist patrolling officers in the field or in an on-
14 call capacity, provide preventive, follow-up, training on mental
15 health field response best practices, or other services at the
16 direction of the local law enforcement agency. Nothing in this
17 subsection (3) requires or limits the mental health professional's
18 participation in field patrol.

19 (4) Within existing resources, the Washington association of
20 sheriffs and police chiefs shall:

21 (a) Consult with the Washington state institute for public policy
22 to establish data collection and reporting guidelines for grant
23 recipients in order for the institute to conduct the study under
24 section 2 of this act; and

25 (b) Consult with the department of social and health services to
26 develop requirements for participating mental health professionals.

27 (5) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs
28 shall submit an annual report to the governor and appropriate
29 committees of the legislature on the program. The report must include
30 information on grant recipients, use of funds, participation of
31 mental health professionals, and feedback from the grant recipients
32 by December 1st of each year the program is funded.

33 (6) Grant recipients shall develop and provide or arrange for
34 training necessary for mental health professionals to operate
35 successfully and competently in partnership with law enforcement
36 agencies. The training must provide the professionals with a working
37 knowledge of law enforcement procedures and tools sufficient to
38 provide for the safety of the professionals, partnered law
39 enforcement officers, and members of the public.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.28A
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The Washington state institute for public policy, in
4 consultation with the Washington association of sheriffs and police
5 chiefs, shall develop data collection and reporting guidelines for
6 grant recipients under section 1 of this act within existing
7 resources. The institute shall conduct a study on whether the use of
8 mental health field response improves outcomes of interactions with
9 persons experiencing behavioral health crises, including reducing
10 rates of violence and harm and other measurable effects identified by
11 the institute.

12 (2) This section expires July 1, 2023.

--- END ---