**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**Notice of Availability of Funds**

**Take notice** that in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, the Department of Law and Public Safety (LPS), through the Division of State Police, hereby announce the availability of the following grant program funds:

1. **Name of Program:** Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program
2. **Purpose:** The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Grant Program is specifically designated to support law enforcement and behavioral health cross-system collaboration and to improve public health and safety responses and outcomes for individuals with MHDs or co-occurring MHSUDs who come into contact with the criminal justice system. Asking law enforcement officers to respond to 9-1-1 behavioral health crisis calls without the benefit of a mental health specialist can lead to negative outcomes. Approximately 35 percent of uses of force by officers in New Jersey involve an individual identified as suffering from an MHD/MHSUD. This Grant Program will fund mental health professionals to collectively respond with law enforcement officers to individuals suffering from mental health distress, whether the interaction with law enforcement is prompted by 9-1-1 call or otherwise.
3. **Available Funding:** LPS is a recipient of a U.S. Department of Justice, FY22 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program. Funding will be made available to applicants through a competitive process on a reimbursement basis. Pursuant to the availability of federal funding, the anticipated amount of grant funding available is $366,500. The anticipated funding period for each award is May 1, 2023, through May 1, 2025. LPS reserves the right not to make any subawards or to make subawards in an amount less than requested.
4. **Organizations which may apply:** The FY22 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program is only available to State, county, and local units of government, including municipal police departments and county prosecutor offices. Applicants **must** demonstrate, prior to receiving award funds, that (1) their jurisdiction is demographically diverse, including racial and socioeconomic diversity; and (2) the applicant has either an established relationship with a mental health provider(s) or received interest from a mental health provider(s) that could partner in use of the award funds. Eligibility is subject to review and approval by the Division of State Police and LPS.
5. **Safe policing and law enforcement subrecipients**

Any State, local, college, or university law enforcement agencies that apply for this funding must be certified by an approved independent credentialing body or have started the certification process before they can receive a subaward. To become certified, law enforcement agencies must meet two mandatory conditions: (1) the agency’s use of force policies adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws; and (2) the agency’s use of force policies prohibit chokeholds except in situations where use of deadly force is allowed by law. For detailed information on this certification requirement, see <https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO>.

1. **Examples of eligible use of grant funds:**

Programs designed to provide accessible crisis intervention, mental health screening, or other support to individuals experiencing mental health crisis who have contacted or are engaging with law enforcement.

1. **Selection Criteria:** All applications will receive an initial review to ensure the proposal meets minimum standards. This will be followed by an evaluation of the project to determine if it meets the intent of the grant and the expected results and outcomes identified in the Subaward Program Guidance and Application Kit. Only applications meeting all requirements will be considered complete and be reviewed.

Applications will be scored based on the following criteria:

***1. Problem Statement/Needs Assessment – 15 points maximum***

Clearly state the problem/need that will be addressed with grant funds and show how it meets the need/solves the identified problem. If applicable, clearly link the project to a priority issue area contained in the Notice of Availability of Funding (NOAF).

***2.. Goals, Objectives, Action Strategy – 40 points maximum***

State the goal(s) of the program. List clear and measurable objectives to achieve each

goal, describing specific approaches that will be taken to resolve the problem and expected outcomes, including a plan for community engagement. Fully describe long and short -term benefits of the project along with availability of resources to continue the project; identify the personnel whose needs will be directly benefitted by the project.

***3. Planning, Management Structure and Background – 25 points maximum***

Provide information regarding the implementation process for your project. Outline the management structure; identify the Project Director and other key individuals who will be directly involved in the operation of the project.

***4. Performance Measures/Evaluation – 10 points maximum***

Describe the methods that will be used to measure the progress and assess the impact of the project. Describe why this particular method to solve the problem was chosen over other alternatives.

***5. Program Budget – 10 points***

Using the Budget Detail Worksheet, list funds requested for program implementation. Provide a detailed narrative for use of federal funds requested in each budget category and/or line item to describe why it is necessary and appropriate to the project scope.

1. **Application Process:** The application kit will provide application and submission instructions, required forms, scoring guidelines and restrictions applicable to this grant.
2. All applications must be submitted via email no later than 4:00 P.M. on January 13, 2023. Applications must be sent with the subject line **FY 2022 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program** to Laura Maley at: Laura.Maley@njsp.org. Applicants will be notified of approval or disapproval of applications approximately 30 days after the application deadline.
3. **Contact:** Please direct all questions to:

Laura Maley

Grants Program Management Unit

New Jersey State Police

Division Headquarters

1034 River Road, W. Trenton, NJ 08628

609-882-2000 ext. 2720

Laura.Maley@njsp.org

1. **Subject to Appropriations:** Please note that funding allocations and individual subaward amounts are subject to change. Subrecipients shall recognize and agree that both the initial provision of funding and the continuation of such funding under a grant agreement is expressly depending upon the availability to the LPS of funds appropriated by the State or Federal legislature from State and/or Federal revenue or such other funding sources as may be applicable. A failure of LPS to make any payment under a grant agreement or to observe and perform any condition on its part to be performed under a grant agreement as a result of the failure of the State or Federal legislature to appropriate funds shall not in any manner constitute a breach of a grant agreement by LPS or an event of default under a grant agreement and LPS shall not be held liable for any breach of a grant agreement because of the absence of available funding appropriations. In addition, future funding shall not be anticipated from LPS beyond the duration of the award period set forth in a grant agreement and in no event shall a grant agreement be construed as a commitment by LPS to expend funds beyond the termination date set in a grant agreement.