

Analysis
Department of State Police
Law Enforcement Mental Health

Analyst: Julie Neburka

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the US Department of Justice, Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program for a Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act grant in the amount of \$125,000 to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for law enforcement officers.

Analysis: The US Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that police officers have a higher risk of incurring a work-related injury or illness than most other occupations, experiencing occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work at four times the rate of all occupations. The Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017 acknowledged the importance of mental health and wellness - in addition to physical health - for the nation's law enforcement officers by expanding the allowable use of grant funds under the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program to include establishing peer mentoring mental health and wellness pilot programs within state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

The Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act grant program provides funds to states, tribes, for-profit and non-profit organizations, universities, and community- and faith-based organizations to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for law enforcement through training and technical assistance, demonstration projects, and implementation of promising practices related to peer mentoring mental health and wellness programs. The COPS program expects to award 34 two-year grants beginning October 1, 2020. The Oregon State Police propose to use the grant funds, if awarded, to establish a peer support mentor team to provide one-on-one support and guidance after an employee's on-duty traumatic situation or an off-duty personal crisis. Peer support team members would receive qualified training to provide appropriate mentor support and/or referrals to other professional resources when needed.

No matching funds are required for this grant. Grant applications are due by March 30, 2020. If the grant is awarded, the agency may return to the legislature to request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation and position authority, if needed.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: Approve the request.



February 14, 2020

The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon State Police (OSP) respectfully requests permission to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), for the FY 2020 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Competitive Grant in an amount up to \$125,000.

This grant provides funding to assist public governmental agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, for-profit (commercial) organizations, non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, community groups, and faith-based organizations. LEMHWA funds are used to improve the delivery of, and access to, mental health and wellness services for law enforcement through training and technical assistance, demonstration projects, and implementation of promising practices related to peer mentoring mental health and wellness programs.

The COPS Office expects to make up to 34 project awards for a 24-month period of performance, to begin on October 1, 2020. This grant does not require a match. The grant application deadline is March 31, 2020.

Agency Action

This grant solicitation was posted on January 30, 2020. The agency is currently working on developing a grant proposal to establish an initial peer support mentor team to provide one-on-one support and guidance after an on-duty traumatic situation or an off-duty personal crisis for an employee. Chosen peer support team members would receive qualified training to provide appropriate mentor support and/or referrals to other professional resources when needed.

The grant does not require a match. If this grant is awarded, OSP may need to request position authority and an increase in its Federal Fund limitation for both the 2019-21 and 2021-23 biennia in a future meeting of the Legislative Assembly.

Action Requested

Approve OSP's request to apply for the FY 2020 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Competitive Grant through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

Legislation Affected

None

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Hampton".

Travis Hampton
Superintendent
Oregon State Police

cc: Constantin Severe, Governor's Office
 Michelle Lisper, Dept. of Administrative Services - Chief Financial Office
 Julie Neburka, Legislative Fiscal Office
 Terri Davie, OSP Deputy Superintendent
 Traci Cooper, OSP Chief Financial Officer