



(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, to award grants to States, territories, political subdivisions of States and territories, Tribal governments, and consortia of Tribal governments to establish an unarmed mobile crisis response program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SMITH of Washington introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, to award grants to States, territories, political subdivisions of States and territories, Tribal governments, and consortia of Tribal governments to establish an unarmed mobile crisis response program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “911 Community Crisis
3 Responders Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR UNARMED MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE**
5 **PROGRAMS.**

6 Part D of title V of the Public Health Service Act
7 is amended by inserting after section 552 (42 U.S.C.
8 290ee–7) the following new section:

9 **“SEC. 553. GRANTS FOR UNARMED MOBILE CRISIS RE-**
10 **SPONSE PROGRAMS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
12 the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance
13 Use, may award grants to States, territories, political sub-
14 divisions of States and territories (such as counties), Trib-
15 al Governments, and consortia of Tribal Governments to
16 establish an unarmed mobile crisis response program
17 under which nonviolent emergency calls are referred to un-
18 armed professional service providers for response, instead
19 of to a law enforcement agency.

20 “(b) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—An unarmed mo-
21 bile crisis response program funded under this section
22 shall—

23 “(1) dispatch unarmed professional service pro-
24 viders in groups of two or more in a timely manner;

25 “(2) be capable of providing screening, assess-
26 ment, de-escalation, trauma-informed culturally com-

1 petent services, engagement and referrals to commu-
2 nity-based treatment providers, and transportation
3 to immediately necessary treatment;

4 “(3) when necessary, coordinate with health,
5 housing, or social services;

6 “(4) not be subject to oversight of State, Trib-
7 al, or local law enforcement agencies; and

8 “(5) clearly outline the scope of calls that must
9 or may be referred to the unarmed mobile crisis re-
10 sponse program as first responders.

11 “(c) USES OF FUNDS.—A grant under this section
12 may be used for—

13 “(1) hiring unarmed professional service pro-
14 viders and public safety telecommunicators;

15 “(2) training unarmed professional service pro-
16 viders to respond to emergency calls by identifying,
17 understanding, and responding to signs of mental ill-
18 nesses, physical disabilities, developmental or intel-
19 lectual disabilities, and substance use disorders, in-
20 cluding by means of—

21 “(A) de-escalation;

22 “(B) crisis intervention; and

23 “(C) connecting individuals to local service
24 providers, health care providers, housing pro-
25 viders, community-based organizations, and the

1 full range of other available providers and re-
2 sources, with a focus on culturally competent
3 service providers;

4 “(3) updating 911 response systems to enable
5 triage between nonviolent 911 calls and those that
6 require a response from law enforcement;

7 “(4) developing curriculum to train, and con-
8 ducting training of, public safety telecommunicators
9 on de-escalation and call processing;

10 “(5) coordinating with 9–8–8 call centers to es-
11 tablish a process for dispatching an unarmed mobile
12 crisis response program;

13 “(6) building the capacity—

14 “(A) to coordinate with local trauma-in-
15 formed social service providers, health care pro-
16 viders, and community-based organizations; and

17 “(B) to provide multilingual and culturally
18 competent services; and

19 “(7) collecting data for reports to the Sec-
20 retary.

21 “(d) APPLICATION.—An applicant seeking a grant
22 under this section shall submit to the Secretary an appli-
23 cation at such time, in such manner, and containing such
24 information as the Secretary may reasonably require, in-
25 cluding the applicant’s plan to train 911 public safety tele-

1 communicators to determine when a call requires a re-
2 sponse from an unarmed mobile crisis response program.

3 “(e) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—A recipient of a
4 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary, on
5 a biannual basis, a report on the following:

6 “(1) The number of calls placed to 911 that
7 were diverted to the grantee’s unarmed mobile crisis
8 response program.

9 “(2) Demographic information on the individ-
10 uals served by the grantee’s unarmed mobile crisis
11 response program, disaggregated by race, ethnicity,
12 age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, location,
13 mental illness, physical disabilities, developmental or
14 intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and
15 housing status.

16 “(3) The effects of the grantee’s unarmed mo-
17 bile crisis response program on emergency room vis-
18 its, hospitalizations, use of ambulances, and involve-
19 ment of law enforcement in mental health or sub-
20 stance use disorder crises.

21 “(4) An assessment of the types of events and
22 crises to which the grantee’s unarmed mobile crisis
23 response program responded and the services pro-
24 vided, including—

1 “(A) the number of individuals successfully
2 transferred to an alternative destination;

3 “(B) the time between notification by a
4 public safety telecommunicator and arrival at
5 the scene by a provider; and

6 “(C) the time spent by providers at scene.

7 “(5) A cost analysis of the grantee’s unarmed
8 mobile crisis response program.

9 “(f) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
10 submit to the Congress, on a biannual basis, a report on
11 the program under this section, including a summary of
12 the reports submitted by grantees pursuant to subsection
13 (e).

14 “(g) GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary may make
15 grants to applicants that do not meet all of the criteria
16 under subsection (b)(1), but applicants that do not meet
17 all such criteria may not receive the full grant amount.

18 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 “(1) The term ‘alternative destination’—

20 “(A) means any service- or care-providing
21 site other than a hospital emergency depart-
22 ment or jail; and

23 “(B) includes an outpatient clinic, primary
24 care provider’s office, crisis apartment, crisis

1 home, respite home, crisis stabilization center,
2 urgent care facility, and community care center.

3 “(2) The term ‘nonviolent emergency call’
4 means a 911 call that—

5 “(A) relates to mental health, homeless-
6 ness, addiction problems, social services, tru-
7 ancy, intellectual and developmental disabilities,
8 or public intoxication; and

9 “(B) does not involve obvious violent be-
10 havior.

11 “(3) The term ‘unarmed professional service
12 provider’ means a professional (which may include a
13 nurse, social worker, emergency medical technician,
14 counselor, community health worker, trauma-in-
15 formed personnel, social service provider, substance
16 use disorder professional, or peer support specialist)
17 who—

18 “(A) is trained to deal with mental health
19 or substance abuse crises or intellectual and de-
20 velopmental disabilities; and

21 “(B) does not carry a firearm.

22 “(i) NONDISCRIMINATION.—No person in the United
23 States shall, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color,
24 religion, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation
25 and gender identity), or disability, be excluded from par-

1 ticipation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to
2 discrimination under any program or activity funded, in
3 whole or in part, with funds made available under this sec-
4 tion.”.