

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4699

To establish within the Department of Health and Human Services a Division on Community Safety, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 18, 2023

Ms. BUSH (for herself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. BONAMICI, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, Financial Services, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To establish within the Department of Health and Human Services a Division on Community Safety, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; PURPOSES.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “The People’s Response Act”.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to—

2 (1) catalyze, coordinate, and disseminate re-  
3 search on approaches to community safety that re-  
4 duce criminal legal contact while expanding oppor-  
5 tunity, including a particular focus on groups that  
6 have been disproportionately harmed by the criminal  
7 legal system;

8 (2) support State governments, local govern-  
9 ments, and community-based organizations in imple-  
10 menting qualified approaches to community safety;

11 (3) mobilize and coordinate Federal resources  
12 to advance qualified approaches to community safe-  
13 ty;

14 (4) expand resources to holistically support sur-  
15 vivors of mass incarceration, police violence, rape  
16 and other forms of sexual assault, harm resulting  
17 from detention or deportation, and other forms of vi-  
18 olence and abuse; and

19 (5) expand resources to holistically support  
20 marginalized communities, particularly Black and  
21 Indigenous communities, to implement qualified ap-  
22 proaches to community safety.

23 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1           (1) COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER.—The term  
2           “community health worker” means a frontline public  
3           health worker who—

4                   (A) is a trusted member of, or has a close  
5                   understanding of, the community served, ena-  
6                   bling the worker to serve as a link between  
7                   health and social services and the community,  
8                   so as to facilitate access to services and improve  
9                   the quality and cultural competence of service  
10                  delivery; and

11                  (B) builds individual and community ca-  
12                  pacity by increasing health knowledge and self-  
13                  sufficiency through a range of activities such as  
14                  outreach, community education, informal coun-  
15                  seling, social support, and advocaey.

16           (2) COMMUNITY LAND TRUST.—The term  
17           “community land trust” means a community-based  
18           organization that is designed to ensure community  
19           stewardship of land and—

20                   (A) is not sponsored by a for-profit organi-  
21                   zation;

22                   (B) has a membership open to any adult  
23                   who resides in the particular geographic area in  
24                   which the organization operates; and

1 (C) provides low-cost land and housing  
2 while maintaining community control over  
3 neighborhood resources, including by acquiring  
4 land that will be held in perpetuity so as to pro-  
5 vide permanently affordable homeownership to  
6 those who might not otherwise be able to afford  
7 a home.

8 (3) FIRST RESPONDER.—The term “first re-  
9 sponder” means an individual with relevant experi-  
10 ence who responds to crises in a way that meets the  
11 definition of qualified approaches to community safe-  
12 ty.

13 (4) QUALIFIED APPROACH TO COMMUNITY  
14 SAFETY.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “qualified ap-  
16 proach to community safety” means, with re-  
17 spect to a program or service, that the program  
18 or service is established or provided in a man-  
19 ner that is disconnected from carceral institu-  
20 tions, including law enforcement, criminal  
21 courts, prosecution, probation, child welfare  
22 services, or immigration enforcement.

23 (B) DISCONNECTED FROM CARCERAL IN-  
24 STITUTIONS.— For purposes of subparagraph  
25 (A), the term “disconnected from carceral insti-

1           tutions” means having no relationship with re-  
2           spect to administration, staffing, or funding, or  
3           otherwise cooperating with, collaborating with,  
4           or reporting to, any carceral institution in any  
5           situation, except where the program or service  
6           involved is bound to engage in such cooperation  
7           or reporting by existing Federal, State, or local  
8           law.

9           (5) PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING.—The term  
10          “participatory budgeting” means a democratic en-  
11          gagement process in which community members de-  
12          liberate and decide directly how to allocate a portion  
13          of a public budget.

14          (6) SAFETY NEEDS ASSESSMENT.—The term  
15          “safety needs assessment” means a systematic,  
16          participatory process for identifying the safety needs  
17          in the local community. Such process shall include—

18                 (A) soliciting input from persons who rep-  
19                 resent the broad interests of the local commu-  
20                 nity, including those who have been directly im-  
21                 pacted by arrest, incarceration, criminal super-  
22                 vision, immigration detention, or other criminal  
23                 legal system involvement;

24                 (B) identifying the structural, systemic  
25                 factors that may lead community members to

1           feel unsafe or may increase the risk that com-  
2           munity members may become involved with the  
3           criminal legal system;

4           (C) identifying existing resources that are  
5           potentially available to address those safety  
6           needs as well as any other gaps in necessary re-  
7           sources; and

8           (D) providing opportunities that allow peo-  
9           ple meaningful opportunities to review, com-  
10          ment on, and provide suggested modifications  
11          to the draft assessment, such as through public  
12          hearings, online publication, and a comment pe-  
13          riod that allows sufficient time for community  
14          feedback.

15          (7) STATE.—The term “State” means any  
16          State of the United States, the District of Columbia,  
17          the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-  
18          lands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern  
19          Mariana Islands.

20          (8) UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term  
21          “unit of local government” means any city, county,  
22          township, town, borough, parish, village, or other  
23          general purpose political subdivision of a State.

# TITLE I—DIVISION ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

## SEC. 101. DIVISION ON COMMUNITY SAFETY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Department of Health and Human Services a Division on Community Safety (referred to in this Act as the “Division”). The Division shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary for Community Safety (referred to in this Act as the “Assistant Secretary”) who shall be designated by and report directly to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Division shall have responsibility for overseeing activities that promote qualified approaches to community safety, including—

(1) coordinating and carrying out other oversight activities with respect to the grant programs established under title II;

(2) funding, conducting, coordinating, and publicly disseminating the findings of, research into policies, programs, infrastructure, and other investments that serve to increase qualified approaches to community safety, including through interdisciplinary collaborations involving scholars, nonprofits, and other nongovernmental actors;

1           (3) providing and funding technical assistance  
2           to State and local governments to implement quali-  
3           fied approaches to community safety;

4           (4) establishing—

5                 (A) the Community Advisory Board under  
6                 section 102;

7                 (B) the Federal Health Response Unit  
8                 under section 103;

9                 (C) the Interagency Task Force under sec-  
10                tion 104;

11                (D) the Community Safety Grant for com-  
12                munity-led organizations under section 201;

13                (E) the Community Safety Grant for Local  
14                Governments under section 202;

15                (F) the Community Safety Grant for  
16                States under section 203; and

17                (G) the First Responder Hiring Grants  
18                under section 204;

19           (5) coordinating, streamlining, and imple-  
20           menting qualified approaches to community safety in  
21           collaboration with the Assistant Secretary for the  
22           Administration for Children and Families, Director  
23           of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,  
24           Administrator of the Health Resources and Services  
25           Administration, Director of the Indian Health Serv-



1 ice, the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and  
2 Substances Use, and other relevant agencies within  
3 the Department of Health and Human Services;

4 (6) supporting and helping to coordinate inter-  
5 agency initiatives that advance, streamline, and oth-  
6 erwise implement qualified approaches to community  
7 safety;

8 (7) administering grant programs that support  
9 State governments, local governments, and commu-  
10 nity-based organizations in implementing qualified  
11 approaches to increasing community safety;

12 (8) providing to the public updates, findings,  
13 and recommendations on qualified approaches to  
14 community safety collected from the reports made by  
15 recipients of grants under title II; and

16 (9) establishing and maintaining a complaint  
17 system responsible for the resolution of complaints  
18 from members of the general public regarding grant  
19 funding for programs not compliant with the quali-  
20 fied approaches to community safety standard.

21 **SEC. 102. COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Division shall establish an  
23 advisory board to oversee the activities of the Division es-  
24 tablished under section 101 and grant programs under

1 title II, to be known as the Community Advisory Board  
2 (referred to in this Act as the “Advisory Board”).

3 (b) COMPOSITION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Board shall be  
5 composed of individuals, to be selected by the Sec-  
6 retary. Such members shall reflect the racial, reli-  
7 gious, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, disability  
8 status, immigration status, and other diversities of  
9 the United States, including representation for  
10 Black people, Asian-American people, Latinx people,  
11 Indigenous people, lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
12 transgender, and queer people, women, youth, dis-  
13 abled people, undocumented and formerly undocu-  
14 mented immigrants, and other groups that have  
15 been disproportionately disadvantaged by the crimi-  
16 nal legal system.

17 (2) REPRESENTATION.—The Assistant Sec-  
18 retary shall ensure that a certain number of individ-  
19 uals selected to serve as members of the Advisory  
20 Board—

21 (A) have personal experience with the  
22 criminal legal system, including—

23 (i) individuals who have been detained  
24 or incarcerated;

1 (ii) individuals who are currently on  
2 community supervision (such as probation  
3 or parole) or who have been on community  
4 supervision;

5 (iii) individuals who have been ar-  
6 rested or cited by law enforcement;

7 (iv) individuals who have been directly  
8 impacted by police violence or other forms  
9 of violence, including domestic violence,  
10 sexual assault, rape, and other forms of  
11 sexual or intimate partner violence; and

12 (v) immediate family members of indi-  
13 viduals who have been directly impacted by  
14 police violence; and

15 (B) are advocates or grassroots practi-  
16 tioners working to advance educational equity,  
17 health equity, housing equity, environmental  
18 justice, racial justice, gender justice, disability  
19 justice, or Indigenous justice.

20 (3) PAY.—Members of the Advisory Board shall  
21 serve at a rate of pay to be determined by the Sec-  
22 retary.

23 (4) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The duties of the Ad-  
24 visory Board are as follows:

1 (A) Approving annual priorities and fund-  
2 ing for research and technical assistance and  
3 evaluating, on an annual basis, research con-  
4 ducted or supported by the Division and tech-  
5 nical assistance provided by the Division.

6 (B) Based on the evaluations conducted  
7 under paragraph (5), producing, and submitting  
8 to the Administrator, annual recommendations  
9 on the following:

10 (i) Whether activities conducted by  
11 the Division adequately reflect the specific  
12 needs and interests of all individuals, in-  
13 cluding Black individuals, Asian-American  
14 individuals, Latinx individuals, Indigenous  
15 individuals, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and  
16 transgender individuals, disabled individ-  
17 uals, and other individuals who are mem-  
18 bers of communities that have been dis-  
19 proportionately impacted by the immigra-  
20 tion and criminal legal system.

21 (ii) Whether funding made available  
22 to the Division is sufficiently flowing to or-  
23 ganizations that are led by individuals re-  
24 ferred to in clause (i).

1 (iii) Changes that the Division could  
2 make to address any issues uncovered dur-  
3 ing such evaluations, including ways to en-  
4 sure that grants awarded under this title  
5 are serving to enhance racial equity and  
6 benefit community-based organizations  
7 that have diverse leadership and composi-  
8 tion.

9 (5) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the  
10 date on which the Division receives the recommenda-  
11 tions under paragraph (4)(B), the Division shall  
12 submit a report to Congress, which details—

13 (A) steps the Division has taken or will  
14 take to implement the Advisory Board’s rec-  
15 ommendations; or

16 (B) for any recommendations not imple-  
17 mented or planned to be implemented, an expla-  
18 nation as to why such recommendation was in-  
19 feasible or conflicted with the Division’s statu-  
20 tory obligations.

21 **SEC. 103. FEDERAL HEALTH RESPONSE UNIT.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
23 Human Services shall establish a Federal health response  
24 unit, to be known as the “Federal Health Response Unit”,  
25 which shall—

1           (1) respond, through a response unit trained in  
2 accordance with training developed under paragraph  
3 (2), to any public health emergency—

4                   (A) declared by the Secretary of Health  
5 and Human Services under section 319 of the  
6 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d); or

7                   (B) with respect to which the head of a  
8 State public health agency makes a request to  
9 the Secretary for assistance;

10           (2) develop, provide for the training of, and  
11 hire, not fewer than 5,000 personnel to respond to  
12 such an emergency;

13           (3) develop, and provide to States and units of  
14 local government, guidelines for implementing quali-  
15 fied approaches to community safety;

16           (4) develop and implement a plan to minimize  
17 barriers to community health worker program par-  
18 ticipation, such as by providing guidance and ensur-  
19 ing the availability of local sources of community  
20 health worker-led technical assistance on require-  
21 ments for participation, including plans to prioritize  
22 and build the capacity of community-based organiza-  
23 tions and community health worker-led organizations  
24 and associations within the State or region as eligi-

1 ble and preferred providers of community health  
2 worker technical assistance;

3 (5) support local educational agencies as de-  
4 fined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-  
5 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)  
6 with resources, personnel and services that create  
7 truly safe and inclusive schools;

8 (6) provide States and units of local govern-  
9 ment with community health workers, including indi-  
10 viduals who are trained in first response or violence  
11 prevention, or both, and other personnel to improve  
12 access to health services and address the public  
13 health emergency described in paragraph (1) within  
14 their respective jurisdiction; and

15 (7) coordinate with the commissioned Regular  
16 Corps and Ready Reserve Corps under section 203  
17 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 204),  
18 the Medical Reserve Corps under section 2813 of the  
19 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-15),  
20 and State-level agencies and crisis response teams.

21 (b) CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure that  
22 each individual hired pursuant to this section shall be paid  
23 a wage, which shall at least be the highest of the following:

24 (1) \$17 an hour.

1           (2) The minimum wage under the applicable  
2 State or local minimum wage law.

3           (3) The prevailing rates of pay for individuals  
4 employed in similar occupations by the same em-  
5 ployer.

6           (4) The Federal minimum wage in effect under  
7 section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of  
8 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).

9 **SEC. 104. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.**

10       (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Health and  
11 Human Services shall establish an interagency task force  
12 (referred to in this Act as the “Task Force”) to coordinate  
13 and promote holistic, qualified approaches to community  
14 safety.

15       (b) **MEMBERS.**—The Task Force shall be composed  
16 of the following members:

17           (1) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
18 ices, or the designee of the Secretary.

19           (2) The Attorney General, or the designee of  
20 the Attorney General.

21           (3) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-  
22 opment, or the designee of the Secretary.

23           (4) The Secretary of Education, or the designee  
24 of the Secretary.



1           (5) The Secretary of Labor, or the designee of  
2 the Secretary.

3           (6) The Administrator of the Environmental  
4 Protection Agency, or the designee of the Adminis-  
5 trator.

6           (7) Other agencies, as determined necessary by  
7 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

8 (c) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall:

9           (1) Conduct a comprehensive audit of all funds  
10 allocated and programs supported by the Depart-  
11 ment of Justice and other Federal agencies that  
12 fund law enforcement, jails, prisons, and other de-  
13 tention facilities, and other coercive or carceral ap-  
14 proaches to public safety.

15           (2) Conduct a comprehensive audit that as-  
16 sesses all Federal funds allocated to, as well as Fed-  
17 eral programs supporting, initiatives that are in-  
18 tended to enhance qualified approaches to commu-  
19 nity safety, disaggregated by jurisdiction.

20           (3) Facilitate ongoing efforts to streamline the  
21 application, monitoring, and reporting processes to  
22 make Federal funds provided pursuant to any grant  
23 made under this Act maximally accessible to small,  
24 grassroots organizations that work to develop, imple-

1           ment, or evaluate qualified approaches to community  
2           safety.

3           (d) MEETINGS.—For the purpose of carrying out this  
4           section, the Task Force may hold such meetings, and sit  
5           and act at such times and places, as the Task Force con-  
6           siders appropriate.

7           (e) INFORMATION.—The Task Force may secure di-  
8           rectly from any Federal agency such information as may  
9           be necessary to enable the Task Force to carry out this  
10          section. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Task  
11          Force, the head of such agency shall furnish such informa-  
12          tion to the Task Force.

13          (f) AGENCY REPORTS.—For the purposes of enabling  
14          the Task Force to carry out the audits required under sub-  
15          section (c), not less than once every six months—

16                (1) the Secretary of Education shall submit to  
17                the Assistant Secretary a report that contains with  
18                respect to each recipient of a grant awarded by the  
19                Secretary a profile of such recipient and in the case  
20                of any such recipient that is a State or unit of local  
21                government—

22                        (A) the needs of school health providers in  
23                        the relevant jurisdiction; and

24                        (B) information on the applicable local  
25                        school population, including the largest barriers

1 to the safety of the school population (including  
2 when school is not in session);

3 (2) the Attorney General shall submit to the  
4 Assistant Secretary a report that contains with re-  
5 spect to each recipient of a grant awarded by the  
6 Secretary a profile of such recipient and in the case  
7 of any such recipient that is a State or unit of local  
8 government—

9 (A) the amount of grant funds awarded to  
10 the jurisdiction under a grant administered by  
11 the Attorney General;

12 (B) the recipients' progress in meeting the  
13 purposes specified in section 1, including—

14 (i) the number of residents who are  
15 being incarcerated, criminally supervised,  
16 or otherwise confined in any coercive insti-  
17 tutional structure and how these numbers  
18 have changed over time;

19 (ii) the amount and type of any fines,  
20 fees, or other financial obligations owed by  
21 residents to any component of the criminal  
22 legal system;

23 (iii) the amount and type of contact  
24 that residents have with the criminal legal  
25 system; and

1 (iv) racial disparities in arrest, incar-  
2 ceration, criminal supervision, school dis-  
3 cipline, and other areas that people may  
4 contact the criminal legal system.

5 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days  
6 after the date on which the Task Force completes the au-  
7 dits described in subsection (c), the Task Force shall sub-  
8 mit a report to Congress, which summarizes—

9 (1) the contents of such audits; and

10 (2) any recommendations, based on such audits,  
11 with respect to additional investments or policy  
12 changes that would improve the implementation of  
13 qualified community safety approaches and maxi-  
14 mize community safety outcomes in all jurisdictions  
15 served.

16 **SEC. 105. NON-DISCRIMINATION.**

17 No person in the United States shall, on the basis  
18 of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin,  
19 sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), or  
20 disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the  
21 benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under—

22 (1) any program or activity funded, in whole or  
23 in part, with funds made available under this title;  
24 or

1           (2) any other program or activity funded, in  
2           whole or in part, with funds appropriated for grants,  
3           cooperative agreements, and other assistance admin-  
4           istered by the Assistant Secretary.

5           **TITLE II—GRANTS IN SUPPORT**  
6           **OF COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7           **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY GRANT**  
8           **FOR COMMUNITY-LED ORGANIZATIONS.**

9           (a) GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary  
10          of Health and Human Services (in this Act referred to  
11          as the “Secretary”), shall award grants, on a rolling basis,  
12          to community-based organizations that are designing, im-  
13          plementing, monitoring, or otherwise supporting qualified  
14          approaches to community safety, including as inter-  
15          mediaries making subgrants to other local organizations  
16          and community leaders who are leading qualified commu-  
17          nity safety programming.

18          (b) APPLICATION.—A community-based organization  
19          seeking a grant under this section shall submit an applica-  
20          tion to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and  
21          containing such information as the Secretary may require.

22          (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
23          tion, the Secretary shall give priority to community-based  
24          organizations that—

1           (1) serve, are located in, and directly employ  
2           people who live in, communities that have been dis-  
3           proportionately impacted by the immigration or  
4           criminal legal system, as evidenced by high rates of  
5           individuals who have been cited, arrested, or incar-  
6           cerated in the year preceding the year for which the  
7           application for such grant is submitted;

8           (2) are led by, or employ, individuals who have  
9           been directly impacted by the criminal legal system,  
10          including via arrests, incarceration, witnessing or  
11          being victims of police violence, or having a family  
12          member who was arrested, incarcerated, or a victim  
13          of police violence;

14          (3) are led by individuals who have proven ties  
15          to the community in which the organization oper-  
16          ates;

17          (4) are located in, or primarily serve, Native  
18          American communities on and off of reservations,  
19          including Urban Indian (as defined in section 4 of  
20          the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C.  
21          1603)) communities; or

22          (5) have a leadership that reflects the racial di-  
23          versity of the community in which the organization  
24          operates.

1 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A community-based organiza-  
2 tion receiving funds under this section shall use such grant  
3 funds for any purpose that has demonstrable connection  
4 to improving community safety through the use of quali-  
5 fied approaches to community safety, including grant writ-  
6 ing or funding that furthers one or more of the following  
7 purposes:

8 (1) Crisis intervention, including unarmed first  
9 responder agencies and 9–1–1 dispatchers for divert-  
10 ing calls to first responders.

11 (2) Programs that interrupt or prevent violence,  
12 including violence and abuse interruption and pre-  
13 vention programs, neighborhood mediation pro-  
14 grams, and safe passage to school programs.

15 (3) Participatory investments into the built en-  
16 vironment, including park redevelopment,  
17 streetlights, and public transportation.

18 (4) Public health activities and voluntary health  
19 services, including harm reduction-based treatment  
20 for mental health and substance use, hiring of com-  
21 munity health workers, long-term supportive hous-  
22 ing, lead abatement, pollution reduction, and nutri-  
23 tion access, such as through establishing farmers  
24 markets, nonprofit and employee-owned grocery  
25 stores, and school-based nutrition programs.

1           (5) Housing security programs and initiatives,  
2           including outreach programs, permanent supportive  
3           housing, community land trusts and housing for in-  
4           dividuals experiencing temporary or chronic home-  
5           lessness.

6           (6) Support for youth and families, including  
7           school-based counselors, trauma-informed practices,  
8           youth and mentorship programs, after school and  
9           enrichment programs, credible messenger in schools  
10          programs, social-emotional learning programs, wrap-  
11          around services, and two-generational programming.

12          (7) Support for victims, including survivors of  
13          domestic violence, sexual violence, and rape, and tar-  
14          geted services to help victims, witnesses, and sur-  
15          vivors process trauma, achieve financial and housing  
16          independence, make individualized, needs-based safe-  
17          ty plans, and otherwise access the help that they  
18          need.

19          (8) Reentry support for people who are exiting  
20          incarceration or criminal supervision, including edu-  
21          cational and workforce programs, stipends, housing  
22          programs, and support for worker coops.

23          (9) Capacity building support to local advocates  
24          and community-based organizations, including legal



1 assistance, and startup assistance for coops, commu-  
2 nity land trusts, and nonprofit organizations.

3 (e) GRANT AMOUNTS.—In determining the amount  
4 of a grant awarded to a single community-based organiza-  
5 tion under this section, the Secretary shall base such de-  
6 termination on—

7 (1) the number of people who will be served by  
8 the program or intervention;

9 (2) the depth of need demonstrated, including  
10 attention to specific activities planned, the socio-  
11 economic characteristics of the community served by  
12 the organization, and current patterns of criminal  
13 legal involvement; and

14 (3) such other factors as the Secretary deter-  
15 mines are relevant.

16 (f) LIMITATION.—Funds made available under this  
17 section may be used only to carry out programs, services,  
18 or activities that use qualified approaches to community  
19 safety.

20 (g) REPORTING.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than  
22 one year after the date on which a community-based  
23 organization receives a grant under this section, and  
24 annually thereafter, the organization shall prepare  
25 and submit a report to the Secretary and Assistant

1 Secretary containing such information as the Sec-  
2 retary may require, including—

3 (A) the use of grant funds;

4 (B) an estimation of the number of people  
5 served through activities carried out using  
6 grant funds, including demographic information  
7 disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, gender,  
8 disability status sexuality, immigration status,  
9 ZIP Code, and socioeconomic status (where  
10 such information is reasonably available and  
11 voluntarily provided); and

12 (C) any relevant feedback received by such  
13 organization from the populations served by  
14 such organization regarding—

15 (i) the efficacy of support from  
16 sources other than programs and services  
17 provided by such organization using grant  
18 funds; and

19 (ii) additional resources and services  
20 needed by such populations with respect to  
21 improving community safety.

22 (2) PRIVACY.—The report submitted to the  
23 Secretary and Division of Community Safety pursu-  
24 ant to this section must protect the privacy of the  
25 individuals served. All of the information gathered

1 as part of the reporting process shall be aggregated,  
2 anonymized, and used only for the purposes listed in  
3 this section and shall not be used to initiate or con-  
4 tribute to any criminal, legal, immigration, or Child  
5 Protective Services actions or proceedings, except  
6 where such reporting is required by law.

7 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
8 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
9 \$4,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024  
10 through 2028.

11 **SEC. 202. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY GRANT**  
12 **FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.**

13 (a) GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary  
14 shall award grants, on a rolling basis, to units of local  
15 government to assess safety needs, conduct research on,  
16 fund programming on, and otherwise support the develop-  
17 ment of qualified approaches to community safety.

18 (b) APPLICATION.—A unit of local government seek-  
19 ing a grant under this section shall submit an application  
20 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-  
21 taining such information as the Secretary may require, in-  
22 cluding an assurance that the unit of local government  
23 shall develop, and submit to the Secretary, during the  
24 grant period, a safety needs assessment to guide local in-  
25 vestments in qualified approaches to community safety.

1 (c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under this  
2 section, the Secretary shall give a preference to a unit of  
3 local government that—

4 (1) has taken steps toward, or is submitting  
5 proposals within the application for such a grant for  
6 purposes of—

7 (A) increasing human liberty, including  
8 through measures that reduce incarceration,  
9 pretrial detention, arrests, criminal supervision,  
10 immigration detention, and other forms of  
11 criminal justice involvement;

12 (B) ending the criminalization of poverty,  
13 mental illness, homelessness, substance use, and  
14 related issues by addressing root causes of  
15 those issues rather than imposing criminal pun-  
16 ishment and other punitive responses; or

17 (C) ending racial, economic, gender, and  
18 other disparities in criminal punishment, includ-  
19 ing discipline in schools;

20 (2) has a high rate of poverty, as well as dis-  
21 proportionately high shares of residents who have  
22 been impacted by violence and the criminal legal sys-  
23 tem (as determined by the Secretary); or

24 (3) has prepared and developed the application  
25 submitted under this section in consultation with the

1 community the unit of local government serves, espe-  
2 cially individuals in such community who have been  
3 directly impacted by the criminal legal system.

4 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A unit of local government re-  
5 ceiving funds under this section shall use such grant funds  
6 to:

7 (1) Establish or designate a community-led en-  
8 tity that—

9 (A) employs qualified approaches to com-  
10 munity safety; and

11 (B) can coordinate and make investments  
12 in community safety, including by using  
13 participatory budgeting or other community-led  
14 processes.

15 (2) Develop a safety needs assessment and cre-  
16 ate an action plan targeted to address such safety  
17 needs.

18 (3) Invest in programs, interventions, or policy  
19 initiatives that have a demonstrable connection to  
20 improving community safety, including programs  
21 interventions, or policy initiatives that are designed  
22 to address needs related to economic stability, sur-  
23 vivor safety, physical and behavioral health, environ-  
24 mental safety, housing stability, and educational eq-

1 uity and opportunity such as those listed in section  
2 201(d).

3 (4) Train and hire community health workers,  
4 including individuals who are trained in first re-  
5 sponse and violence prevention, who can help to ad-  
6 dress such identified safety needs.

7 (5) Administer programming, including via  
8 grants to community-based organizations and the di-  
9 rect deployment of community health workers, to im-  
10 plement the action plan.

11 (e) GRANT AMOUNTS.—In determining the amount  
12 of a grant awarded to a State or unit of local government  
13 under this section, the Secretary shall base such deter-  
14 mination on—

15 (1) the number of people who live in the juris-  
16 diction of the local government;

17 (2) the depth of need demonstrated, including  
18 attention to activities planned, the socioeconomic  
19 characteristics of the community and residents with-  
20 in that jurisdiction, and current patterns of spend-  
21 ing in systems of incarceration; and

22 (3) such other factors as the Secretary deter-  
23 mines are relevant.

24 (f) LIMITATIONS.—

1           (1) Funds made available under this section  
2           may be used only to carry out programs, services, or  
3           activities that use qualified approaches to commu-  
4           nity safety.

5           (2) Each State or unit of local government re-  
6           ceiving a grant under this section shall certify to the  
7           Secretary that any individual hired using funds re-  
8           ceived through such grant will be paid a wage, which  
9           shall be at least the highest of the following:

10                   (A) \$17 an hour.

11                   (B) The minimum wage under the applica-  
12                   ble State or local minimum wage law.

13                   (C) The prevailing rates of pay for individ-  
14                   uals employed in similar occupations by the  
15                   same employer.

16                   (D) The Federal minimum wage in effect  
17                   under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Stand-  
18                   ards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).

19           (g) REPORTING.—Beginning not later than one year  
20           after the date on which a local government receives a  
21           grant under this section, and annually thereafter, the unit  
22           of local government shall prepare and submit to the Sec-  
23           retary, and make publicly available, a report containing  
24           information about—

25                   (1) how the grant funds were used;

1           (2) the number of people who were cited, ar-  
2           rested, or jailed by any State or local law enforce-  
3           ment officers in the previous year in the jurisdiction  
4           of the local government, as compared to the number  
5           cited, arrest, or jailed during the term of the grant;

6           (3) the reasons for such citing, arresting, or de-  
7           tained or imprisoned;

8           (4) demographic data of individuals cited, ar-  
9           rested, or jailed or referred by local law enforcement  
10          officers, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, gen-  
11          der, disability status, and socioeconomic status; and

12          (5) the percentage of grant funds that ulti-  
13          mately benefited community-based organizations.

14          (h) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An unit of local  
15          government receiving a grant under this section may use  
16          Federal funds received through the grant only to supple-  
17          ment the funds that would, without such Federal funds,  
18          be made available from State and local sources, and not  
19          to supplant such funds.

20          (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
21          are authorized to be appropriated to implement this sec-  
22          tion \$3,500,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024  
23          through 2028.



1 **SEC. 203. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY GRANT**  
2 **FOR STATES.**

3 (a) GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary  
4 shall award grants, on a rolling basis, to States to conduct  
5 research on, fund, and otherwise support the development  
6 of qualified approaches to community safety.

7 (b) APPLICATION.—A State seeking a grant under  
8 this section shall submit an application to the Secretary  
9 at such time, in such manner, and containing such infor-  
10 mation as the Secretary may require, including an assur-  
11 ance that the State shall—

12 (1) establish or designate a State agency, de-  
13 partment, or office equivalent to the Division on  
14 Community Safety established under section 101, to  
15 oversee and support the use of qualified approaches  
16 to community safety statewide; and

17 (2) provide matching funds equal to the amount  
18 of Federal funds received under the grant—

19 (A) to fund qualified approaches to com-  
20 munity safety; and

21 (B) to provide an ongoing framework for  
22 continued funding of such qualified approaches.

23 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
24 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to a State that meets  
25 one or more of the same criteria specified in paragraphs  
26 (1), (2), and (3) of section 202(c).

1 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A State receiving funds under  
2 this section shall use such grant funds to—

3 (1) make grants to community-based organiza-  
4 tions implementing one or more qualified approaches  
5 to community safety, including as intermediaries  
6 making subgrants to other local organizations and  
7 community leaders who are leading qualified commu-  
8 nity safety programming on these issues;

9 (2) fund local governments to undertake the ac-  
10 tivities described in section 202(d); or

11 (3) fund education training for individuals who  
12 are taking jobs that advance qualified approaches to  
13 community safety.

14 (e) GRANT AMOUNTS.—In determining the amount  
15 of a grant awarded to a single recipient under this section,  
16 the Secretary shall base such determination on—

17 (1) the number of people who live in the State;

18 (2) the depth of need demonstrated, including  
19 attention to activities planned, the socioeconomic  
20 characteristics of the community, and current pat-  
21 terns of involvement in the criminal legal system;  
22 and

23 (3) such other factors as the Secretary deter-  
24 mines are relevant; and

1 (f) LIMITATION.—Funds made available under this  
2 section may be used only to carry out programs, services,  
3 or activities that use qualified approaches to community  
4 safety.

5 (g) REPORTING.—Beginning not later than one year  
6 after the date on which a State receives a grant under  
7 this section, and annually thereafter, such State shall pre-  
8 pare and submit a report to the Secretary containing in-  
9 formation about—

10 (1) how the grant funds were used;

11 (2) the number of people who were cited, ar-  
12 rested, or jailed by State or local law enforcement  
13 officers in the previous year, as compared to the  
14 number cited, arrest, or jailed during the term of  
15 the grant;

16 (3) the reasons for such citing, arresting, or  
17 jailing; and

18 (4) demographic data of individuals cited, ar-  
19 rested, or jailed or referred by State or local law en-  
20 forcement officers, disaggregated by race, ethnicity,  
21 age, gender, disability status, and socioeconomic sta-  
22 tus.

23 (h) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—A State shall  
24 use Federal funds received under this section only to sup-  
25 plement the funds that would, without such Federal funds,

1 be made available from State and local sources, and not  
2 to supplant such funds.

3 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
4 are authorized to be appropriated to implement this sec-  
5 tion \$3,500,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024  
6 through 2028.

7 **SEC. 204. FIRST RESPONDER HIRING GRANTS.**

8 (a) GRANT AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall  
9 carry out a grant program under which the Secretary  
10 makes grants to community-based organizations, health  
11 departments, States, units of local government, Indian  
12 tribal governments, other public and private entities, and  
13 multi-jurisdictional or regional consortia for the purposes  
14 described under subsection (b).

15 (b) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—A grant awarded  
16 under subsection (a) may be used to—

17 (1) hire and train first responders;

18 (2) procure equipment, technology, support sys-  
19 tems, or pay overtime, to increase the number of  
20 first responders available to a community;

21 (3) increase the number of first responders in-  
22 volved in activities that are focused on interaction  
23 with members of the community on crisis response  
24 and community violence and trauma prevention;

1           (4) provide education and training to first re-  
2           sponders to enhance their conflict resolution, medi-  
3           ation, problem solving, service, and other skills need-  
4           ed to work in partnership with members of the com-  
5           munity, including by programs that incentivize indi-  
6           viduals to complete such education and training;

7           (5) develop and implement innovative programs  
8           that support members of the community to work  
9           with community-based organizations, emergency first  
10          responders, and State, Tribal, and local officials in  
11          community violence and trauma prevention efforts;  
12          and

13          (6) establish school-based partnerships by em-  
14          ploying and retaining first responders in pre-Kinder-  
15          garten, elementary, and secondary schools to support  
16          trauma-informed care and behavioral and mental  
17          health services, and to operate school-based health  
18          centers in local schools.

19          (c) LIMITATION.—

20               (1) Funds made available under this section  
21               may be used only to carry out programs, services, or  
22               activities that use qualified approaches to commu-  
23               nity safety.

24               (2) Each entity that receives a grant under this  
25               section shall certify to the Secretary that any indi-

1       vidual hired using funds received through such grant  
2       will be paid a wage, which shall be at least the high-  
3       est of the following:

4               (A) \$17 an hour.

5               (B) The minimum wage under the applica-  
6       ble State or local minimum wage law.

7               (C) The prevailing rates of pay for individ-  
8       uals employed in similar occupations by the  
9       same employer.

10              (D) The Federal minimum wage in effect  
11       under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Stand-  
12       ards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).

13       (d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There  
14       are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
15       \$2,500,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024  
16       through 2028.

17       **SEC. 205. NON-DISCRIMINATION.**

18       No person in the United States shall, on the basis  
19       of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin,  
20       sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), or  
21       disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the  
22       benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under—

23              (1) any program or activity funded, in whole or  
24       in part, with funds made available under this title;  
25       or

1           (2) any other program or activity funded, in  
2           whole or in part, with funds appropriated for grants,  
3           cooperative agreements, and other assistance admin-  
4           istered by the Assistant Secretary.

○