
HOUSE BILL 1661

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Maycumber, Springer, Robertson, Chapman, and Mosbrucker

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a pilot project for mobile mental
2 health crisis intervention; creating new sections; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that trauma-
6 informed de-escalation and harm reduction techniques are effective in
7 ensuring the peaceful resolution of emergency crisis situations
8 involving mental illness, homelessness, and addiction.

9 (2) The legislature further finds that mobile mental health
10 crisis intervention programs that operate independently of law
11 enforcement agencies may be an effective alternative or supplement to
12 police response for nonviolent crises.

13 (3) The legislature intends to appropriate sufficient funding to
14 the state military department's emergency management division to
15 establish a program to support mental health first response efforts
16 in local communities by awarding grants for a pilot project to
17 establish two emergency crisis assistance teams.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
19 appropriated for this specific purpose, the state military
20 department's emergency management division shall establish the

1 emergency crisis assistance team pilot project. The purpose of the
2 project is to create two emergency crisis assistance teams that
3 support community-based public safety and provide mobile mental
4 health crisis intervention for crises involving mental illness,
5 homelessness, and addiction.

6 (2) (a) The state military department shall establish a
7 competitive grant program to award funding for two emergency crisis
8 assistance teams by September 1, 2023.

9 (b) The state military department shall award two grants, one to
10 an eligible applicant in a city west of the crest of the Cascade
11 mountains and one to an eligible applicant in a city east of the
12 crest of the Cascade mountains.

13 (3) Mental health care service providers are eligible to compete
14 for grant funding.

15 (4) Grant recipients shall use grant funds to establish an
16 emergency crisis assistance team that provides the following mobile
17 mental health crisis intervention programs and services:

- 18 (a) Crisis counseling;
- 19 (b) Suicide prevention, assessment, and intervention;
- 20 (c) Conflict resolution and mediation;
- 21 (d) Grief and loss counseling;
- 22 (e) Substance abuse prevention, assessment, and intervention;
- 23 (f) Housing crisis aid;
- 24 (g) First aid and nonemergency medical care;
- 25 (h) Resource connection and referrals; and
- 26 (i) Transportation to services.

27 (5) Grant recipients shall provide a report to the state military
28 department on the results of their emergency crisis assistance teams
29 by October 1, 2024. The state military department shall provide a
30 report on the emergency crisis assistance team pilot project to the
31 governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1,
32 2024.

33 (6) This section expires January 1, 2025.

--- END ---