
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

AB 118 (Kamlager) - Emergency services: community response: grant program

Version: December 18, 2020

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: July 15, 2021

Policy Vote: G.O. 13 - 1

Mandate: No

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 118 establishes a 3-year pilot program, to be administered by the Office of Emergency Services, to distribute grants to organizations providing community-based alternatives to law enforcement in response to crisis situations.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown, likely significant cost pressures in the millions of dollars to fund the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (C.R.I.S.E.S.) Grant Program (General Fund).

Unknown, potentially significant costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to administer the grant program and support the operations of the C.R.I.S.E.S. Committee. The OES estimates the need for between five to ten percent of the total grant amounts to cover its administrative costs.

Background: The OES is responsible for addressing natural, technological, or manmade disasters and emergencies, and preparing the State to prevent, respond to, quickly recover from, and mitigate the effects of both intentional and natural disasters. As part of their overall preparedness mission, OES is required to develop a State Emergency Plan (SEP), State Hazard Mitigation Plan, and maintains the Standardized Emergency Management System and the Emergency Management Mutual Aid System. In coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and local partners, the OES has developed four Catastrophic Plans to augment the State Emergency Plan.

The Grants Management Division within the OES is responsible for the administration of approximately \$807 million in funds for homeland security, emergency management, public safety, and victim services programs, a majority of which are distributed to local and regional entities to enable the most effective prevention, detection, response and recovery efforts.

Proposed Law:

- Establishes the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act, as a three-year program, for the purposes of creating, implementing, and evaluating the C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program.
- Requires the OES to establish rules and regulations for the C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program, which aims to create and strengthen community-based alternatives to law enforcement in response to crisis situations not related to a fire department or emergency medical service response. Specifies that grantees receive a minimum award of \$250,000 per year.

- Requires grantees to stimulate and support involvement in emergency response activities that do not require a law enforcement officer.
- Establishes an 11-member CRISES Advisory Committee inclusive of community organizations with a proven history of leadership and partnership on emergency response, to be appointed by the Governor, the Chair of the Senate Rules Committee, and the Speaker of the Assembly, as specified.
- Requires the director of OES to assemble staff, resources, and consultants with technical expertise, if necessary, to provide administrative and technical support to the C.R.I.S.E.S. Committee.
- Requires the Committee to establish grant application criteria and parameters for eligible community organizations; make recommendations on program development, implementation, and oversight; and score grant proposals, prioritizing and giving preference to projects in locations with demonstrated need.
- Requires the Committee to meet at a minimum, once per quarter.
- Establishes the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems Program Fund to support the grant program. Specifies that the program is dependent on the appropriation of funding.
- Sunsets the pilot program on January 1, 2026.
- Makes legislative findings and declarations.

Related Legislation: AB 2054 (Kamlager, 2020), substantially similar to this bill, would have established a 3-year pilot program, administered by the OES to distribute grants to organizations providing community-based alternatives to law enforcement in response to crisis situations. AB 2054 was vetoed.

-- END --