

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1932 (Elhawary) – As Amended April 16, 2026

Policy Committee:	Human Services	Vote:	6 - 0
	Judiciary		11 - 1

Urgency: Yes State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill, an urgency measure, extends the sunset date of the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (C.R.I.S.E.S.) Act, from June 30, 2026, to January 1, 2033, and makes other adjustments to the program.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Expands the definition of “community-based organization” (CBO) to also include a public or nonprofit organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or exempt from state income taxation under Section 23701d of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
- 2) Redefines “grantee” to mean a community-based organization, rather than a local government or tribe, that receives a grant pursuant to the act and makes conforming changes.
- 3) Specifies the C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program subject to appropriation in the annual Budget Act.
- 4) Directs the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the stakeholder workgroup to award grants to eligible grantees, as determined by CDSS and the stakeholder workgroup, based on grant eligibility criteria developed in partnership with the stakeholder workgroup.
- 5) Specifies that an eligible grantee is a CBO and that law enforcement agencies, and organizations partnered with law enforcement, are not eligible grantees.
- 6) Requires CDSS, within 30 days after the effective date of the act, to review existing appointments to the stakeholder workgroup and, as necessary, identify vacancies or members who are no longer able or willing to serve. Requires CDSS, no later than 75 days after the effective date of the act, to fill any vacancies and reconvene the stakeholder workgroup.
- 7) Requires CDSS, upon allocation of funding to eligible entities, to report to the Legislature, and post publicly on its internet website, information about the grants funded, as specified.
- 8) Authorizes CDSS to enter into agreements with one or more entities to facilitate implementation of the program by providing technical assistance to members of the stakeholder workgroup.
- 9) Includes a sunset date of January 1, 2032.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) General Fund (GF) cost pressures in the millions of dollars annually to fund the grants to CBOs.
- 2) Estimated ongoing GF administrative costs to CDSS in the high-hundreds of thousands of dollars to the low millions of dollars annually for the duration of the pilot for four to six staff to implement the changes and administer the program.

The program is subject to an appropriation in the annual budget act. The author has requested \$10 million in the 2026-27 state budget to fund the grant program.

According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, the General Fund faces a structural deficit in the tens of billions of dollars over the next several fiscal years.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Every day, people experiencing mental health or substance use crises are met not with care, but with uniforms and armed response that can escalate already intense situations. These moments of vulnerability call for compassion, understanding, and specialized support, yet too often, the system sends the wrong kind of help. When law enforcement is asked to respond to crises they are not trained to handle, situations can escalate quickly. Too many of these encounters have ended in unnecessary trauma, injury, or loss of life. Filling a gap between enforcement and those needing help, [this bill] seeks to provide culturally competent care that will ultimately save lives. By using community-based response measures, the outcomes of emergencies that require a lacking presence of enforcement are rather met with support. This bill does not create a new system but instead extends the already working response of capable organizations serving as cost effective lifesaving resources.

- 2) **Background.** The C.R.I.S.E.S. Act was established by AB 118 (Kamlager), Chapter 694, Statutes of 2021, to bolster non-law enforcement response options to crises. The C.R.I.S.E.S. Act grant program authorized CDSS to award grants to local governments who were then tasked with awarding program funds to qualifying CBOs, to create and strengthen community-based alternatives to law enforcement. CDSS awarded \$9.5 million to CBOs for emergency response pilots in Oakland, Marin County, Sacramento County, and Santa Cruz County. The C.R.I.S.E.S. Act is set to sunset in June of this year.

This bill extends the C.R.I.S.I.S. Act until January 1, 2032, and updates the grant program to authorize CDSS to solicit applications directly from qualified CBOs, rather than going through local governments, require CDSS to issue grant awards based on eligibility determined in collaboration with the work group, and be subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act.

This bill is supported by numerous community-based organizations, civil rights advocacy organizations, and restorative justice advocates who collectively assert:

Community-led response teams—composed of trusted local organizations—can provide culturally competent, trauma-informed, linguistically accessible care without the threat of violence or arrest. By separating emergency care from policing, these models build trust, encourage early intervention, and ensure that vulnerable residents can safely access support in moments of acute need. Investing in such alternatives promotes public health, strengthens disaster resilience, and enhances community safety for everyone.

Analysis Prepared by: Jennifer Swenson / APPR. / (916) 319-2081