
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Becker, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 1932
Author: Elhawary
Version: April 16, 2026
Urgency: Yes
Consultant: Diana Dominguez

Hearing Date: June 15, 2026
Fiscal: Yes

Subject: Department of Social Services: C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program

SUMMARY

This bill would extend the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (C.R.I.S.E.S.) Grant Pilot Program to June 30, 2032. This bill would require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to award grants directly to community-based organizations and to report to the Legislature about the funded grants. This bill would require the stakeholder workgroup to meet at least quarterly and require CDSS to review and fill vacancies for appointments to the stakeholder workgroup.

ABSTRACT

Existing Law:

- 1) Establishes the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act for the purposes of creating, implementing, and evaluating the C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program. (*Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] 18999.90 and 18999.91*)
- 2) Defines the following terms for purposes of the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act:
 - a. “Community-based organization means a public or nonprofit organization, or organization fiscally sponsored by a nonprofit, that can demonstrate its ability to effectively provide community-based alternatives to law enforcement, and has a demonstrated involvement with the identified communities to be served.
 - b. “Grantee” means a county, city, or tribe, or a department of a city, county, or tribe, that receives a grant pursuant to the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act. (*WIC 18999.92*)
- 3) Requires the C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program to be administered by CDSS, subject to an appropriation in the 2021 Budget Act for this purpose. (*WIC 18999.93(a)(1)*)
- 4) Requires CDSS to award grants to eligible grantees, as determined by CDSS, based on grant eligibility criteria developed in partnership with the stakeholder workgroup. Specifies that an eligible grantee is a city, county, or tribe, or a department of a city, county, or tribe, including, but not limited to, departments of social services, disability

services, public health, or behavioral health. Specifies that law enforcement agencies and organizations are not eligible grantees. (*WIC 18999.93(a)(2)(A) and (B)*)

- 5) Provides that grant funds shall be utilized to create and strengthen community-based alternatives to law enforcement to lessen the reliance on law enforcement agencies as first responders to crisis situations unrelated to a fire department or emergency medical service response. Specifies that community-based alternatives shall not include law enforcement officers or agencies as first responders or coresponders. (*WIC 18999.93(a)(4)(A) and (B)*)
- 6) Requires CDSS to prioritize grantees that propose interventions that serve historically marginalized populations and that serve communities with a demonstrated need for community-based alternatives to law enforcement, as evidenced by metrics, including a high record of police use of force, a high volume of civilian complaints, high rates of imprisonment, and racial profiling. (*WIC 18999.93(a)(5)*)
- 7) Requires grantees to prioritize the awarding of program funds to qualified community-based organizations that demonstrate the capacity to lead the proposed program and demonstrate experience, as specified, in providing community-based alternatives to law enforcement or civilian crisis response in communities with a demonstrated need for community-based alternatives to law enforcement. (*WIC 18999.93(b)(3)*)
- 8) Allows a grantee and the community-based organization that receives funds to collaborate on program planning and implementation of community-based alternatives to law enforcement, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
 - a. Local stakeholder engagement.
 - b. Mechanisms for response requests.
 - c. Crisis response activities.
 - d. Crisis response follow-up, including coordination with local services and supports, tracking service delivery data, and submitting grant reports. (*WIC 18999.93(b)(4)*)
- 9) Requires a grantee to report to CDSS at least annually on the use of C.R.I.S.E.S. program funding, which shall include data reporting on clients served and program outcomes, as determined by CDSS in consultation with the stakeholder workgroup. (*WIC 18999.93(c)*)
- 10) Requires CDSS to convene a stakeholder workgroup to make recommendations regarding implementation of the C.R.I.S.E.S. program. Requires CDSS to convene regular meetings with the stakeholder workgroup in which the workgroup shall do all of the following: provide input regarding criteria for qualified grantees; provide best practices and program recommendations; provide consultation on implementation and priorities for technical assistance; identify barriers to implementation and suggest solutions to address those barriers; recommend anonymous data to be collected; collaboratively review data and program outcomes; and advise on the design of the evaluation. (*WIC 18999.93(d)(1)*)

- 11) Provides that the members of the stakeholder workgroup shall include, but not be limited to, a minimum of one of each of the following individuals:
 - a. Emergency medical system practitioners with relevant experience, as specified.
 - b. Public health or behavioral health practitioners with relevant experience, as specified.
 - c. Members of the public who have survived an emergency or crisis and used community-based services in response to the emergency or crisis.
 - d. Survivors of police brutality.
 - e. Surviving family members of someone who has been subject to use of force resulting in death or serious bodily injury by a law enforcement officer. *(WIC 18999.93(d)(2)(A))*
- 12) Specifies that the stakeholder workgroup shall not include current or former law enforcement officers or immediate family members of law enforcement officers. *(WIC 18999.93(d)(2)(B))*
- 13) Requires CDSS to issue a public report, to be posted on its internet website six months following the end of the C.R.I.S.E.S. program, on the programmatic and fiscal savings associated with the program, key conclusions, populations served and the benefits conferred or realized, using quantitative and qualitative data, and resulting policy recommendations to provide guidance to fully implement and scale a permanent program. *(WIC 18999.93(e))*
- 14) Creates the C.R.I.S.E.S. Program Fund within the State Treasury and provides that moneys deposited in the fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, may be expended by CDSS for the purposes of the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act. Authorizes CDSS to enter into agreements with one or more entities to facilitate the implementation of the program, as specified. Requires CDSS to award all C.R.I.S.E.S. grants on or before January 1, 2023. *(WIC 18999.94)*
- 15) Provides that the C.R.I.S.E.S Act shall only be implemented if appropriate funding is made available to CDSS. Provides that the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act shall remain in effect only until June 30, 2026, and as of that date is repealed. *(WIC 18999.95)*

This Bill:

- 1) Revises the following definitions for purposes of the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act:
 - a. “Community-based organization” means 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, or organization fiscally sponsored by a nonprofit, that can demonstrate its ability to effectively provide community-based

alternatives to law enforcement, and has a demonstrated involvement with the identified communities to be served.

- b. “Grantee” means a community-based organization that receives a grant pursuant to the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act.
- 2) Strikes the specification that the C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program be subject to an appropriation in the 2021 Budget Act and instead specifies it shall be subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act.
 - 3) Specifies that CDSS shall award grants to eligible grantees, as determined by CDSS and the stakeholder workgroup, and specifies that grantee eligibility criteria be developed by CDSS and the stakeholder workgroup.
 - 4) Provides that an eligible grantee is a community-based organization. Provides that law enforcement agencies and organizations, and organizations partnered with law enforcement, are not eligible grantees.
 - 5) Provides that CDSS shall provide grants directly to grantees; publicly solicit partnerships with community-based organizations; and prioritize the awarding of program funds to qualified community-based organizations, as specified.
 - 6) Strikes the provision allowing a grantee and the community-based organizations that receives funds to collaborate on program planning and implementation of community-based alternatives to law enforcement.
 - 7) Requires the regular meetings convened by CDSS with the stakeholder workgroup to occur at least quarterly. Revises required activities that the stakeholder workgroup must take during these meetings to require the stakeholder workgroup to partner with CDSS to evaluate and make appropriate changes to criteria for qualified grantees and provide support and oversight on implementation and priorities for technical assistance.
 - 8) Creates the following new requirements and deadlines related to the stakeholder workgroup:
 - a. Within 30 days after the effective date of this act, requires CDSS 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 to confirm in writing that each stakeholder has acknowledged their ability and willingness to serve.
 - b. No later than 45 days after the effective date of this act, requires CDSS to issue a public solicitation for applications from interested stakeholders to fill any vacancies. Requires the solicitation to be posted on CDSS’ website and distributed to organizations and individuals with relevant expertise or interest in community-based crisis response.
 - c. No later than 75 days after the effective date of this act, requires CDSS to fill any vacancies and reconvene the stakeholder workgroup.

- d. Provides that any member of the stakeholder workgroup who has not attended three or more consecutive meetings without prior notice to CDSS shall be deemed to have vacated their seat, and requires CDSS to fill the vacancy within 90 days.
 - e. Requires CDSS to fill vacancies to the stakeholder group as they occur within 90 days of the vacancy.
- 9) 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, including which specific eligible entities received grants, the grant award number for each eligible entity, and the length of time each pilot program or project will be administered.
 - 10) Strikes the requirement to include resulting policy recommendations in the CDSS report to be posted six months following the end of the C.R.I.S.E.S. Program.
 - 11) Adds providing technical assistance to members of the stakeholder workgroup as an authorized activity for which CDSS may enter into agreements with one or more entities to facilitate the implementation of the C.R.I.S.E.S. Program.
 - 12) Updates the requirement for CDSS to award all C.R.I.S.E.S. grants from on or before January 1, 2023, to on or before January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act for purposes of the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act.
 - 13) Strikes the June 30, 2026 sunset date and instead provides that the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act shall become inoperative on June 30, 2032, and shall be repealed as of January 1, 2033.
 - 14) Declares this bill is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect.

FISCAL IMPACT

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- 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.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Purpose of the Bill:

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, all which could have been prevented with the right response. Filling a gap between enforcement and those needing help, AB 1932 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.”

C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program

In recent years, the public has become more aware of, and concerned about, incidents during which law enforcement responds to calls for assistance when a person is in crisis and needs help that result in the person being harmed or even killed. These incidents have often involved persons with mental or behavioral health conditions. Some have observed that, while law enforcement officers may be well-intentioned, police presence can exacerbate a situation involving a person or people in crisis.

The C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program was established by AB 118 (*Kamlager, Chapter 694, Statutes of 2021*) for the purpose of funding community-based alternatives to law enforcement. Under the C.R.I.S.E.S. Program, funds are provided to cities, counties or tribes that apply for and meet the grantee criteria established by CDSS in consultation with a stakeholder workgroup. CDSS is required to prioritize grantees that propose interventions that serve historically marginalized populations and that serve communities with a demonstrated need for community-based alternatives to law enforcement, as evidenced by metrics, including, a high record of police use of force, a high volume of civilian complaints, high rates of imprisonment, and racial profiling. Grantees (cities, counties, or tribes) then disseminate the funds to qualified community-based organizations with demonstrated ability to effectively provide community-based alternatives to law enforcement and demonstrated involvement with the identified communities to be served. C.R.I.S.E.S. Program funding is utilized to create and strengthen community-based alternatives to law enforcement to lessen the reliance on law enforcement agencies as first responders to crisis situations unrelated to a fire department or emergency medical service response. These community-based alternatives may include, but are not limited to, providing mobile crisis response teams or community para-medicine programs; responding to emergency calls; providing treatment, screening, and assessment; providing stabilization and de-escalation services; coordinating with health, social services, and other support services, as needed; and maintaining relationships with relevant community partners, including a range of community organizers, and medical, behavioral health, and crisis providers. Current law establishing the C.R.I.S.E.S. Program prohibits law enforcement from receiving grant funds,

sitting on the stakeholder workgroup, or being first responders or co-responders within the community-based alternatives. However, some sort of engagement and coordination between the community-based organizations receiving funding and local government entities may be necessary.

Funding for the C.R.I.S.E.S. Program was delayed until Fiscal Year 2023–24. The CDSS Civil Rights, Accessibility and Resource Equity Office awarded \$9.5 million in funding to four city and county grantees and their partnered community-based organization. The grants were awarded for the service period of October 1, 2023, through August 31, 2026. The awards are listed in the table below.¹ According to the bill sponsors, data is still being collected on the outcomes of the current C.R.I.S.E.S. projects. CDSS is required to issue a report six months following the end of the C.R.I.S.E.S. Program on the programmatic and fiscal savings associated with the program, key conclusions, populations served, and the benefits conferred or realized, and resulting policy recommendations. This report is expected in 2027.

Awardee	Community-Based Organization Partner	Award
City of Oakland	Family Bridges Inc.	\$3,558,991.00
County of Marin Health and Human Services	Marin County Cooperation Team	\$1,342,135.00
County of Sacramento Department of Health	Bay Area Community Services, Inc	\$2,058,991
Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health	Family Services Agency of the Central Coast	\$2,539,876.00

C.R.I.S.E.S. 2.0

The original C.R.I.S.E.S. Program statute will become inoperative and be repealed on June 30, 2026. This bill would revise the statute to establish new requirements as a follow-up to the current program. Under this bill, C.R.I.S.E.S. 2.0 would make the following major changes, among others:

- Remove the involvement of a city, county, or tribe and instead require CDSS to provide grant funding directly to community-based organizations.
- Prohibit organizations partnered with law enforcement from being eligible to be a grantee.
- Require CDSS to perform functions previously performed by the city/county/tribe grantees, including:
 - Award 90% or more of grant funding to one or more qualifying community-based organizations.
 - Publicly solicit partnerships with community-based organizations.

¹ https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CivilRights/Website_Award_Announcement_C_R_I_S_E_S_Act_update2_5_24.pdf?ver=2024-05-20-132339-847

- Prioritize the awarding of program funds to qualified community-based organizations with demonstrated capacity and experience, as specified.
- Impose requirements for the timing of appointments and replacements of stakeholder workgroup members.
- Require CDSS to report to the Legislature, and post publicly on its internet website, information about the grants funded, including which specific community-based organizations received grants and the length of time each pilot program or project will be administered.
- Requires CDSS to award all C.R.I.S.E.S. 2.0 grants on or before January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, subject to an appropriation in the annual budget act.
- Sets the new sunset for this bill to become inoperative on June 30, 2032, and repealed as of January 1, 2033.

This bill includes an urgency clause, which would make the bill go into effect immediately if passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. As written, this bill would amend the current C.R.I.S.E.S. statute to make the above changes. However, if this bill does not go into effect before the current repeal date of June 30, 2026, the bill will need to be rewritten to add the C.R.I.S.E.S. Program language into law.

Related/Prior Legislation:

AB 308 (Ramos) would require the Department of Developmental Services to conduct a statewide evaluation of safety training services provided by regional centers and would define “safety training services” as a program designed to increase an individual’s ability to safely navigate community settings and emergency situations, including safe interaction with peace officers, first responders, and emergency personnel. AB 308 will be heard in this committee on June 15, 2026.

AB 118 (Kamlager, Chapter 694, Statutes of 2021) established the C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program for the purpose of funding community-based alternatives to law enforcement.

AB 988 (Bauer-Kahan, Chapter 747, 2021) established a 988 Crisis Hotline Center for the purpose of connecting individuals experiencing a mental health crisis with suicide prevention and mental health services.

AB 2054 (Kamlager, 2020) would have established the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act for the purposes of implementing and evaluating the C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program to stimulate and support community involvement in emergency response activities that do not require a law enforcement officer, as specified. AB 2054 was vetoed by the Governor.

COMMENTS

This bill would extend the C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program, which is currently set to sunset on June 30, 2026. While the program was established by law in 2021, grants were not awarded until the 2023–24 fiscal year. The current projects will end in August 2026, and CDSS’s required report with outcomes and policy recommendations is expected in 2027. While no data is available yet for the current projects, community-based alternative response programs in other states have resulted in fewer interactions with police departments, fewer hospitalizations, and increased uptake of mental health services.

This bill would eliminate the requirement for a local government to serve as an intermediary to apply for a grant and award grant funding to community-based organizations. Instead, a community-based organization would apply for a grant and CDSS would award grant funding directly to a qualified organization. According to the bill sponsors, this was the intent of the original C.R.I.S.E.S. legislation to avoid additional bureaucracy, which may cause delays in getting grant funding. Furthermore, according to the bill sponsors, community-based organizations may have established relationships with cities, counties, and tribes, which could result in favoritism when awarding grants. Requiring CDSS to award grants directly to community-based organizations is meant to increase fairness and transparency.

This bill would give more power to the stakeholder workgroup to meet at least once quarterly, evaluate and make changes to criteria for qualified grantees, and provide support and oversight on implementation and technical assistance. According to the bill sponsors, this is meant to assist CDSS with the grantee vetting and selection process, implementation, and oversight in recognition that CDSS will be responsible for additional grant management activities due to eliminating the local governments as an intermediary.

This bill would specify that organizations partnered with law enforcement are not eligible grantees. The author may wish to consider clarifying what constitutes an organization partnered with law enforcement. The author may wish to consider adding representation to the stakeholder workgroup for the intellectual and developmental disability community, as research shows people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are more likely to have encounters with law enforcement and are more likely to experience uses of force in those encounters.

The author should be aware of the June 30, 2026 repeal date for the current C.R.I.S.E.S. Program. If this bill is not implemented on or before June 30, 2026, there will be no code section to amend. If this occurs, the bill will need to be rewritten to add the contents of this bill to code.

PRIOR VOTES

Assembly Floor:	68 - 2
Assembly Appropriations Committee:	13 - 0
Assembly Human Services Committee:	6 - 0

POSITIONS

Support:

Alliance for Boys and Men of Color (Co-Sponsor)
Anti Police-Terror Project (Co-Sponsor)
Black Arts Movement Business District CDC (BAMD-CDC) (Co-Sponsor)
Black Lives Matter California (Co-Sponsor)
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ) (Co-Sponsor)
Justice Teams Network (Co-Sponsor)
Silicon Valley De-Bug (Co-Sponsor)
Youth Justice Coalition (Co-Sponsor)
A New Path (parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing)
A New Way of Life Reentry Project
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action California
Black Solutions Lab
Buen Vecino
Cal Voices
California Coalition for Women Prisoners
California Faculty Association
California Immigrant Policy Center
Californians for Safety and Justice
Californians United for a Responsible Budget
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
Children's Defense Fund-California
Courage California
Disability Rights California
Drug Policy Alliance
Empowering Marginalized Asian Communities (EMAC)
End Child Poverty CA
Felony Murder Elimination Project
Glide Foundation
Haywood Burns Institute
Health in Partnership
Justice2jobs Coalition
Kindred
LA Defensa
Legal Services for Prisoners With Children
National Compadres Network
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence
Oakland Privacy
Orange County Rapid Response Network
Peace and Justice Law Center
Prevention Institute
Reimagine Richmond
San Francisco Public Defender's Office
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition
South Bay People Power

Street Level Health Project
The Collective for Liberatory Lawyering
The Collective Healing and Transformation Project
Trabajadores Unidos Workers United
Transformative Programming Works
Transitions Clinic Network
Urban Peace Institute
Youth Leadership Institute
1 Individual

Oppose:

None received

-- END --