
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1932 (Elhawary) - Department of Social Services: C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program

Version: April 16, 2026

Urgency: Yes

Hearing Date: June 29, 2026

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 4 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 1932, an urgency measure, would make changes to the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems Act (C.R.I.S.E.S. Act).

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown ongoing General Fund costs, potentially low millions, to provide funding for grants.
- The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) estimates ongoing General Fund costs of \$1.3 million for state administration. This includes \$250,000 for contract costs.

Background: The C.R.I.S.E.S. Act requires CDSS to award grants to eligible grantees, as determined by the department, based on grant eligibility criteria developed in partnership with a stakeholder workgroup. Funds awarded must 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. Community-based alternatives may include, but are not limited to, providing mobile crisis response teams or community para-medicine programs. Community-based alternatives cannot include law enforcement officers or agencies as first responders or coresponders. CDSS must 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. The C.R.I.S.E.S. Act sunsets on June 30, 2026.

The C.R.I.S.E.S. Act 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, health services, public health, or behavioral health. Law enforcement agencies and organizations are not eligible grantees. Each grantee must receive a minimum award of \$250,000 per year.

Current law establishes the C.R.I.S.E.S. Fund and provides that moneys deposited in the fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, may be expended by the department for these purposes. The CDSS has allocated \$9.5 million in funding to four jurisdictions and their community-based organization (CBO) partners. The funding for the four jurisdictions covers the service period of October 1, 2023 through August 31, 2026.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Replace the existing criteria for an eligible grantee under the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act, and instead provide that an eligible grantee is a community-based organization; and specify that law enforcement agencies and organizations, and organizations partnered with law enforcement, are not eligible grantees.
- Impose requirements on CDSS regarding appointments to the stakeholder group.
- Require 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.
- Require CDSS to award all grants on or before January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act.
- Extend the sunset date for the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act from June 30, 2026 to June 30, 2032.
- Contain an urgency clause.

-- END --