

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1932
Author: Elhawary (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/15/26

AYES: Becker, Ochoa Bogh, Laird, Pérez

NO VOTE RECORDED: Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 8/13/26

AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-2, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Department of Social Services: C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program 2.0

SOURCE: Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
Anti Police-Terror Project
Black Arts Movement Business District CDC
Black Lives Matter California
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
Justice Teams Network
Silicon Valley De-Bug
Youth Justice Coalition

DIGEST: This bill reauthorizes the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (C.R.I.S.E.S.) Grant Pilot Program.

Senate floor amendments of 8/21/26 are technical and clarifying in nature.

ANALYSIS:

[NOTE: Existing law has been repealed as of June 30, 2026.]

Existing law:

- 1) Established 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 & Institutions Code (WIC) §18999.90 and §18999.91)
- 2) Defined 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) Required the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to award grants to eligible grantees, as determined by CDSS, based on grant eligibility criteria developed in partnership with the stakeholder workgroup. Specified that an eligible grantee is a city, county, or tribe, or a department of a city, county, or tribe. Specified that law enforcement agencies and organizations are not eligible grantees. (WIC §18999.93(a)(2)(A) and (B))
- 4) Provided 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. Specified that community-based alternatives shall not include law enforcement officers or agencies as first responders or co-responders. (WIC §18999.93(a)(4)(A) and (B))
- 5) Required 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, as specified. (WIC §18999.93(a)(5))
- 6) Required 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))

- 7) Allowed 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))
- 8) Required 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))
- 9) Required CDSS to convene a stakeholder workgroup to make recommendations regarding implementation of the C.R.I.S.E.S. program. Required 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))
- 10) Provided 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))
- 11) Specified 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))
 - 12) Required 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))
 - 13) Created 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. Authorized CDSS to enter into agreements with one or more entities to facilitate the implementation of the program, as specified. Required CDSS to award all C.R.I.S.E.S. grants on or before January 1, 2023. (WIC 18999.94)
 - 14) Provided that the C.R.I.S.E.S Act shall only be implemented if appropriate funding is made available to CDSS. Provided 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) Reestablishes the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act (1) through 14) above) and renames it as the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act 2.0.
- 2) Specifies that 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.
- 3) Defines “grantee” as a community-based organization that receives a grant.
- 4) Defines “local government entity” as a county, city, or tribe, or a department of a city, county, or tribe.

- 5) Specifies an eligible grantee is a community-based organization.
- 6) Requires CDSS to award 90% or more of the grant funds to one or more qualifying community-based organizations. Specifies no more than 10% of the grant funds shall be used to implement and administer the program.
- 7) Requires CDSS to publicly solicit partnerships with community-based organizations.
- 8) Requires CDSS to prioritize the awarding of program funds to qualified community-based organizations, as specified.
- 9) Reestablishes the C.R.I.S.E.S. Program Fund within the State Treasury. Authorizes moneys deposited in the fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be expended by CDSS for the purposes of the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act 2.0.
- 10) Requires CDSS to award all grants on or before October 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act for these purpose.
- 11) Makes the C.R.I.S.E.S. 2.0 provisions inoperative on June 30, 2032. Repeals these provisions as of January 1, 2033.

Background

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. 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.

C.R.I.S.E.S. 2.0. The original C.R.I.S.E.S. Program statute was simultaneously made inoperative and repealed on June 30, 2026. This bill would reestablish the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act code sections and make the following major changes:

- Remove the involvement of a city, county, or tribe as an intermediary and instead require CDSS to provide grant funding directly to community-based organizations.
- 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.
 - Prioritize the awarding of program funds to qualified community-based organizations with demonstrated capacity and experience.
- Requires CDSS to award all C.R.I.S.E.S. 2.0 grants on or before October 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.

Comments

This bill reauthorizes the C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program, which sunsetted on June 30, 2026. While the program was established by law in 2021, grants were not awarded until the 2023–24 fiscal year. The projects funded under the first cycle will end in August 2026, and CDSS' required report with outcomes and policy recommendations is expected in 2027. While no data are 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 reestablishes the C.R.I.S.E.S. Program in law and authorizes a second round of grants to be awarded.

This bill eliminates 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 this bill's sponsors, this was the intent of the original C.R.I.S.E.S. legislation.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 308 (Ramos) would have required the Department of Developmental Services to conduct a statewide evaluation of safety training services provided by regional centers and would have defined "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 was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

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.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Unknown General Fund costs, potentially low millions, to provide funding for grants.
- Unknown General Fund costs, potentially hundreds of thousands, for the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for state administration.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Alliance for Boys and Men of Color (Co-Sponsor)
Anti Police-Terror Project (Co-Sponsor)
Black Arts Movement Business District CDC (Co-Sponsor)
Black Lives Matter California (Co-Sponsor)
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (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
California-hawaii State Conference of the NAACP
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
End Child Poverty CA
Felony Murder Elimination Project
Glide Foundation
Greater Sacramento Urban League
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
 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

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-2, 5/21/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Hadwick, Sanchez

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Johnson, Lackey, Patterson,
Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta, Tangipa

Prepared by: Diana Dominguez / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/24/26 13:50:14

****** END ******