



COLORADO
Department of Local Affairs
Division of Local Government

**PEACE OFFICERS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT AND
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS GRANT PROGRAM**
Colorado Revised Statute 24-32-3501

SMART ACT REPORT

December 2023

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SMART ACT REPORT

Peace Officers Behavioral Health Support and Community Partnerships Grant Program December 2023

Section 24-32-3501, of the Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S) requires the Department of Local Affairs, Division of Local Government, provide an update regarding the effectiveness of the Peace Officers Behavioral Health Support and Community partnerships Grant Program annual report as required by the “State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act” part 2 of article 7 of title 2. This document serves as a response to this reporting requirement.

Program Overview and Status

HB 21-1030 signed by the governor, June 27, 2021 changed the name of this program from Peace Officers Mental Health Support Program to Peace Officers Behavioral Health Support and Community Partnerships Grant Program. The program has been expanded to include peace officers' immediate family members for behavioral health counseling, education and training. Eligible agencies include public safety agencies, fire protection, emergency medical and response and 911 emergency dispatch services, peace officer organizations along with law enforcement agencies. Co-responder/community-based alternative response programs are also eligible for funding.

Recent annual appropriations include:

FY 2022	\$2,000,000
FY 2023	\$2,000,000
HB 21-1030	\$1,000,000
SB 22-005	<u>\$3,000,000</u>
Total	\$8,000,000

After administrative expenses approximately \$7.5 million was available for grant awards in the last award cycle. On page 5, Table 1 is the list of the total grants requested and awarded totaling \$6,229,526 respectively. The remaining balance will be rolled over to the next funding cycle.

The annual appropriation for FY 2024 is \$2 million. After administrative expenses approximately \$1.8 million is available for grant awards. The application process for this grant cycle is in progress.

Program Effectiveness

Grantees are required to report quarterly. In addition they are asked to provide available statistics once a year, normally by the end of November. The statistics they have reported are related to the effectiveness of their projects up to November 2023. The statistics reported are in Table 2 and 3 on page 6.

Grantees are using their funding in the following manner:

- 76% for mental/behavioral health services,
- 24% co-responder/community-alternative services, and
- 32% for both behavioral health and co-responder services.

Behavioral Health Services

The grant funding has allowed local public safety agencies the ability to provide their peace officers and responders the opportunity to receive anonymous counseling beyond the normal EAP programs which often are not familiar with the challenges first responders face. Peer support teams trained with grant dollars were in place as well as counselors and therapists (many funded by the grant program) to assist during critical incidents. Grantees have reported 152 critical incidents since the beginning of this grant period March 21, 2023. Grantees with mental health projects have allowed for direct mental health support, behavioral wellness webinars, peer support training and critical incident debriefings. Sessions with professional counselors have proven to be invaluable.

Agencies are reporting that their officers voluntarily take advantage of initial evaluation and a significant percentage continue to meet with clinicians in follow up sessions. In addition, across the state, peer support teams are utilized and found to be effective in providing emotional support, tools and resources to responders dealing with traumatic events. Not all behavioral health support programs are designed the same way as each local agency understands the needs of their local responders and develop their programs accordingly.

Table 2 on page 6 shows the aggregate number of individuals that participated in their local mental health counseling programs July 2022 through October 2023.

Co-responder and Community-alternative response Services

The co-responder program pairs law enforcement and behavioral health specialists to intervene and respond to behavioral health related calls for police service. The program and team structure varies among locations to meet the needs of the local community.

Law enforcement continued partnerships with mental health co-responders to implement or continue their co-responder services. In numerous instances, the preemptive mental health services provided by the team during an initial contact with those in crisis served to avoid escalated behavior and potential criminal charges. In Table 3 on page 6 the number of arrests avoided are shown. The co-responder program has reported a tremendous success with the partnership of law enforcement and mental health providers. A huge benefit of this program is that peace officers obtain vital training from mental health professionals.

Through the co-responder and community-alternative response programs, referrals are made to other agencies that can assist with other problems such as: poverty, homelessness, behavioral health, food insecurity and other social issues which then allows peace officers to respond to other service calls once the scene is safe. Mental and behavioral health issues are often the cause of callouts to law enforcement agencies. This grant has been key in allowing grantees to provide a program that involves mental health professionals who are trained to handle these situations. Their involvement has been critical to both the deputies and citizens involved in helping to diffuse and address the respective situation.



Table 1. Program Grant Awards Approved January 10, 2023

Applicant Name	County	Program Awards
Adams County	Adams	\$ 249,000
Alamosa County	Alamosa	\$ 200,000
Arapahoe County	Arapahoe	\$ 122,050
Aurora, City of	Arapahoe, Adams, Douglas	\$ 250,000
Boulder County	Boulder	\$ 214,550
Boulder, City of	Boulder	\$ 20,000
Brighton, City of	Adams	\$ 55,000
Carbondale, Town of	Garfield	\$ 98,000
Clear Creek County	Clear Creek	\$ 135,000
Colorado Department of Revenue	N/A	\$ 50,000
Colorado Dept. of Law, CO Attorney General's Office	N/A	\$ 10,700
Colorado Fraternal Order of Police	N/A	\$ 300,000
Colorado Springs, City of	El Paso	\$ 107,927
Colorado State Patrol	N/A	\$ 350,000
Conejos County	Conejos	\$ 3,000
County Sheriffs of Colorado	N/A	\$ 179,750
Custer County	Custer	\$ 20,400
Denver, City and County	Denver	\$ 488,960
Douglas County	Douglas	\$ 78,930
Durango, City of	La Plata	\$ 207,799
Eagle County	Eagle	\$ 78,740
Eaton Town of	Weld	\$ 16,500
Estes Park, Town of	Larimer	\$ 35,250
Firestone, Town of	Weld	\$ 15,575
Fountain, City of	El Paso	\$ 101,080
Frederick, Town of	Weld	\$ 28,000
Garfield County	Garfield	\$ 149,999
Gilpin County	Gilpin	\$ 31,500
Glenwood Springs	Garfield	\$ 55,600
Grand County	Grand	\$ 185,532
Grand Junction, City of	Mesa	\$ 45,650
Greeley, City of	Weld	\$ 52,450
Greenwood Village, City of	Arapahoe	\$ 23,040
Gunnison, City of	Gunnison	\$ 19,000
Jefferson	Jefferson	\$ 175,000
La Plata County	La Plata	\$ 56,250
Lakewood, City of	Jefferson	\$ 121,273



Larimer County	Larimer	\$ 69,850
Limon, Town of	Lincoln	\$ 69,130
Lone Tree, City of	Douglas	\$ 16,280
Longmont, City of	Boulder, Weld	\$ 202,000
Loveland, City of	Larimer	\$ 165,580
Mead, Town of	Weld	\$ 19,200
Mesa County	Mesa	\$ 25,000
Montezuma County	Montezuma	\$ 25,000
Nederland, Town of	Boulder	\$ 167,890
Northglenn, City of	Adams, Weld	\$ 35,055
Otero County	Otero	\$ 52,205
Parker, Town of	Douglas	\$ 36,185
Prowers County	Prowers	\$ 16,000
Pueblo, City of	Pueblo	\$ 99,464
Rifle	Garfield	\$ 5,000
Sheridan, City of	Arapahoe	\$ 14,800
Sterling, City of	Logan	\$ 6,000
Summit County	Summit	\$ 363,382
Thornton, City of	Adams	\$ 410,000
Weld County	Weld	\$ 52,000
Westminster, City of	Adams, Jefferson	\$ 21,000
Windsor, Town of	Larimer, Weld	\$ 27,000
Total		\$ 6,229,526

Table 2: Program Participation

FY 22 Program Start	FY 22 Program End	FY 23 Program Start	FY 23 Program Oct. 2023	Peer Support Program/Training Participation FY 22-23	Mental Health Training/Education Participation FY 22-23
551	868	736	1,601	283	1,198

Table 3: Reported co-responder calls FY 22-23

Responses to Mental Health calls	Number of arrests avoided	Referrals made to other agencies
1,585	1,523	33